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G.O.P. FUND AIDE
QUERIED ON CHECK

Democratic Office Break-In
Focus of Florida Inquiry

By WALTER RUGABER
Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Aug. 23—A Republican finance official was summoned from a meeting at President Nixon's closely guarded headquarters hotel today for questioning by Florida officials investigating the break-in at the Democratic headquarters in Washington.

Kenneth H. Dahlberg of Minneapolis, Midwestern regional chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, was subsequently questioned under oath by investigators for Richard E. Gerstein, the state attorney here.

Martin Dardis, chief investigator for the state attorney, or local prosecutor, is understood to have called Mr. Dahlberg to the Metropolitan Justice Building in Miami and to have asked him about a \$25,000 campaign contribution he collected in cash. The questioning concerned a notarized statement on a check he endorsed that was de-

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posited in a Florida bank.

Mr. Dahlberg has said that he converted the \$25,000 into a cashier's check and handed it to Maurice H. Stans, Mr. Nixon's chief fund raiser, at a meeting in Washington. It was later deposited in a Miami bank account controlled by Bernard L. Barker.

Mr. Barker is the alleged leader among five men who were arrested at gunpoint in the offices of the Democratic National Committee in Washington. The men carried copying cameras and electronic bugging equipment.

When Mr. Barker first presented the \$25,000 check for deposit in the Republic National Bank here, an informant said today, it bore only Mr. Dahlberg's written endorsement on the reverse side.

The bank officer was reportedly unfamiliar with the Republican fund-raiser's signature and apparently explained to Mr. Barker that it would have to be verified. Mr. Barker is said to have taken the check and left the bank.

Returned to Bank

Mr. Barker is a Miami real

estate man, a former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency who participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and, a fully cleared copy of the check shows a notary public.

When Mr. Barker returned to the bank some time later, the \$25,000 check bore on its reverse side a written statement that appears to certify that Mr. Dahlberg endorsed the instrument in the real estate agent's presence.

Mr. Gerstein and Mr. Dardis today made only brief public statements that contained virtually no details of Mr. Dahlberg's testimony. The state attorney disclosed, however, that one aspect of the inquiry involved the possible commission of a felony.

Mr. Gerstein cited a Florida statute that reads:

"Any notary public in this state who shall falsely or fraudulently take any acknowledgment of any instrument . . . or who falsely or fraudulently makes any certificate as a notary public or who falsely takes or receives an acknowledgement of the signature of any written instrument shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree."

Penalty Is 5 Years

A violation of this provision, Mr. Gerstein said, carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Mr. Dahlberg said in an interview tonight that he was served a subpoena while attending a fund-raising meeting this morning at the Doral Hotel in Miami Beach, Mr. Nixon's convention headquarters.

Two members of Mr. Dardis's staff drove the Minnesotan to the Metropolitan Justice Building, where Mr. Dardis spent about an hour questioning him. Mr. Dahlberg said that the notarized statement on the check had been a major topic. "This man [Mr. Barker] was not present when I endorsed the check," Mr. Dahlberg said in the interview. The finance official said he had told Mr. Dardis the "same old thing" about what he had done with the check.

Gave Check to Stans

It was taken to Washington on April 11 and handed to Mr. Stans, a former Secretary of Commerce, at a Republican meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Dahlberg said Mr. Stans has told him that he passed the check on to Hugh W. Sloan Jr., who was then the Nixon campaign treasurer. Mr. Sloan resigned his post July 14, but he has denied his departure was in any way connected with the check.

Mr. Stans has not told him how the check got into Mr. Barker's hands, Mr. Dahlberg said. Clearly weary or recounting his role in the transaction, the Minneapolis businessman said, "I Almost don't want to know."

He reiterated statements that

he never heard of Mr. Barker before the real estate agent's arrest inside the Democratic headquarters and that he had obtained the money as a straightforward contribution to the Nixon campaign.

Deny Law Applies

There has been speculation that the \$25,000 contribution came from a prominent Democrat who wanted his identity to be withheld. Neither Mr. Gerstein nor Mr. Dardis would announce whether Mr. Dahlberg had disclosed the donor's name.

The Republicans have contended that the contribution was made before April 7, when a new Federal campaign finance law took effect, and that therefore provisions requiring disclosure of all income and expenditures do not apply to the Dahlberg cashier's check.

The check was dated April 10. The General Accounting Office, which is investigating the committee's financial affairs, has argued that, even if the cash was obtained before April 7, it was clearly turned over to the Republican headquarters after that date.

Informants familiar with the case, however, recently quoted Mr. Dahlberg as saying that the \$25,000 in cash was collected in Florida on April 9.

Documents Subpoenaed

Mr. Gerstein is known to have opened a quiet investigation a number of weeks ago into what has come to be known as the Democratic "bugging" case. Initially, he has said, he was studying the possibility that a conspiracy had been organized in Miami.

Mr. Gerstein, who is 48 years old and has served 16 years as the state attorney for Dade County, is known to have subpoenaed a number of documents and witnesses. He said he was cooperating with several Federal agencies.

Mr. Dardis, who has served on Mr. Gerstein's staff since 1965, is a native of Endicott, N. Y., who earlier worked for the New York State police and the State Attorney General's office. He is a former chief of police in North Bay, Fla.

The investigation here came to the attention of the Federal authorities almost the day it began, and there has been speculation here that the local effort has increased pressure on Washington for a full inquiry.

Report on Funds Delayed

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—The General Accounting Office, saying that its investigation was still incomplete, delayed again today the release of a final report on its three-week-old audit of an alleged mishandling of campaign funds by the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Officials of the agency have been indicating for the last few days that the report's release was imminent, but one said to-

day that the audit of the committee's financial records was now officially "still in progress."

The agency previously promised a number of Senators and Representatives, who are also looking into the matter, that they would have copies of the completed report by 2:30 P.M. yesterday, but none have yet been delivered.

Representative Wright Patman, Democrat of Texas, who heads the House Banking and currency Committee, said that the Congressional auditing and investigative agency broke an appointment this afternoon to brief his staff on the investigation.

Flew to See Stans

Citing reports that an official of the agency flew to Miami Beach last night to discuss the findings with Maurice H. Stans, President Nixon's campaign finance chairman, Mr. Patman accused the agency of taking "the position of conferring and cooperating with those being investigated while refusing to discuss the case and provide information" to members of Congress.

The head of the agency's Office of Federal Elections, Phillip S. Hughes, confirmed today that he went to Miami Beach and met Mr. Stans last night, but he said it had not been a matter of discussing a complete report with him.

"We went in search of evi-

dence that bears on this investigation," Mr. Hughes said. "We think we found some."

Asked about Mr. Patman's charge that the meeting with Mr. Stans would "raise major questions about the objectivity" of the report, another official said it was a standard policy to confer frequently with an agency under scrutiny.

In response to Mr. Patman's allegation that the agency had "reneged" on its promise to meet with his staff, the official said it had never been the agency's practice to "comment to the Hill on an audit that's in progress."



The New York Times

Kenneth H. Dahlberg, a finance chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, leaving the office in Miami yesterday of Martin Dardis, right, chief investigator for the State Attorney, after being questioned.