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Political Roundup Bjt Lead 280

By ROBERT L. CAMPBELL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - A General Accounting Office report citing "apparent and possible" violations of laws on reporting campaign contributions in President Nixon's re-election effort is an inaccurate, huury up job, Maurice Stans said Sunday.

Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, said pressure on the GAO from Democratic members of Congress is responsible to a high degree for the inaccuracies.

The report issued Saturday disregards evidence "documenting the Finance Committee's compliance with the law," he said.

Elsewhere, John Connally, former Treasury Secretary who now heads Democrats for Nixon, was asked how badly he thought the Republican campaign will be hurt by the charges.

"Oh, obviously it is a nettlesome thing; it is going to be harmful," Connally replied on ABC's "Issues and Answers" program. "I don't think it is going to be a major issue, anything of that kind, but I think it obviously doesn't help."

At Hyannis Port, Mass., Democratic vice presidential candidate Sargent Shriver said he found developments in the case "very interesting" but did not comment further to inquiring newsmen.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew was in Los Angeles, where he said that talk of a 1976 presidential candidacy by him is "debilitating to the party" and counterproductive. Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Agnew said that where the opposition assaults the President in speeches, "I am not going to hesitate to respond."

Frank Mankiewicz, national political director for McGovern, said when the GAO report reaches the Justice Department, "the friends of the administration will be dealt with very lightly."

Mankiewicz, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," said Nixon is "now sitting on a major scandal" and will have to get out and campaign.

Stans said the report reaches false and unwarranted conclusions.

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Political Roundup 450, two takes, total 850

By ROBERT L. CAMPBELL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - A General Accounting Office report citing "apparent and possible" violations of campaign-financing laws in President Nixon's re-election effort was an inaccurate, hurry-up job done mostly because of pressure from Democrats, the head of Nixon's finance committee said Sunday.

Maurice Stans, in a statement released through the official Nixon re-election organization, described the GOA report issued Saturday as one that "reaches false and unwarranted conclusions." He said it is "incomplete and inaccurate," and disregards evidence "documenting the Finance Committee's compliance with the law."

"The report unfortunately contains serious misrepresentations of fact and is so loosely drawn as to raise grave questions regarding its obvious hurried and premature release," Stans said.

"It is apparent that the strong and persistent pressures placed on the GAO by Democratic members of the Congress are responsible to a high degree for the inaccuracies in the report," he said.

"It is indeed unfortunate that McGovern campaign operatives using the offices of sympathetic Democratic senators unduly pressured the agency charged with unbiased administration of the new Federal Election law."

Stans said his committee is asking the GAO to begin immediately an audit of the financial records of Democratic nominee George McGovern.

McGovern, spending a quiet weekend with his family in Washington, has had no comment on the GAO report.

Nixon was at his San Clemente, Calif., home.

Stans said there was nothing wrong in the way a \$25,000 contribution from a Minnesota man was handled since the transaction was completed before April 7, when contributions became reportable under the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act.

And, Stans said the statement that there are "possible" violations in the way Republicans handled some contributions violates the act which gives the GAO the power to investigate election financing.

"This sheer speculation is contrary to the mandate of the GAO under the Election Act and beyond the terms of the statute, and constitutes a fundamental violation of traditional concepts of fair play and the proper administration of justice," Stans said.

Stans also criticized the act as "a highly technical piece of legislation" whose requirements "virtually invite human error and technical oversight."

The act does not give the GAO subpoena power. The GAO forwarded its report to the Justice Department for possible further investigation.

Stans said committee members cooperated fully in providing all that the GAO auditors asked them for and that the effort detracted from the committee's primary job-working for Nixon's re-election.

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WASHINGTON Political Roundup A246WX, Take 2: re-election. 400 Hence, Stans said, the committee was asking the GAO "to begin immediately a full and comprehensive audit of the financial records of Senator McGovern's campaign organization, which we have reason to believe will be very revealing. There must be no reluctance on the part of the GAO to pursue as vigorously with Senator McGovern's staff the same kind of investigation it has with the Finance Committee."

"We will anticipate a report equally extensive," Stans added.

According to the GAO, one of the "apparent" violations centered around a \$25,000 contribution from Dwayne Andreas of Minneapolis. The money eventually wound up in the Florida bank account of ex-CIA agent Bernard Barker, one of the five persons arrested in the alleged bugging of the Democratic national headquarters.

The GAO said interviews with Kenneth Dahlberg, chairman of the Minnesota Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, revealed Dahlberg received a phone call April 5 from Andreas saying that he wanted to remain anonymous, hence was making the gift two days before the effective date of the act.

But the GAO said the money was not picked up until April 9.

Stans' statement said Andreas agreed on March 10 to contribute the \$25,000 to Nixon's campaign. Stans said a few days later Andreas placed the \$25,000 in cash in the safe of a Miami Beach hotel and advised Dahlberg that the cash could be picked up by the Republicans.

Stans said the April 5 call to Dahlberg came when Andreas discovered that the cash had not been picked up and that the money was now being placed in a safe deposit box at the hotel in Dahlberg's name.

Stans said an attempt to pick up the money on April 7 failed when Dahlberg "found the safe-deposit office closed." He said Dahlberg actually received the cash April 10.

Stans said "considerable legal authority was submitted to the GAO, which the GAO omitted from its report, which demonstrates beyond question that the gift was thus completed no later than April 5, 1972, and was not required to be reported."

In related developments, Frank Mankiewicz, national political director for McGovern, said that when the report reaches the Justice Department, "friends of the administration will be dealt with very lightly."

He said he believes the GAO report cites a "major scandal" and will force Nixon out on the campaign trail.

Mankiewicz made the comments on the CBS network program, "Face the Nation."

Former Treasury Secretary John Connally, now leading a Democrats for Nixon movement, said the GAO report is a "nettlesome" thing.

"It's going to be harmful. I don't think it's going to be a major issue, but I don't think it will help," Connally said.

Connally appeared on the ABC network program, "Issues and Answers."

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