

GAO Release Criticized by Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The General Accounting Office has been criticized by the Justice Department for making public detailed information on campaign expenditures by the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

A spokesman Monday said the department was concerned because the information released had been sent to the department for possible criminal prosecution.

"Disclosures of this nature run counter to normal investigative procedures and may prejudice a potential defendant's right to a fair trial," the spokesman said.

The GAO report had been referred to the department's criminal division for review and "appropriate action," the spokesman said.

Jean Westwood, Democratic National Committee chairwoman, said the GAO report "was unable to do more than scratch the surface" of possible violations of campaign finance laws in President Nixon's re-election effort.

But she said, "The GAO's report adds to what was already known, a new huge sum, \$350,000 in cash, whose origins are said to be untraceable and which some Republican finance officials say was left over from the 1968 campaign."

The GAO report contained a statement by Maurice Stans, chief Nixon fund raiser, that the records for the \$350,000 were destroyed after a new, stricter campaign finance law went into effect.

"Was the \$350,000, plus whatever sums may have nestled beside it in the Stans safe, reported properly under the reporting requirements of the old law on campaign contributions?" Mrs. Westwood asked.

"It is perfectly clear that the GAO was unable to do

more than scratch the surface of this strange and scandalous business. What we now have is the bare outlines of the largest and possibly most corrupt set of financial dealings in the history of American presidential politics," Mrs. Westwood said.

Stans Sunday said the GAO report was an inaccurate, hurry-up job done mostly because of pressure from Democrats.

"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.

Kleindienst Vows Full Break-In Probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst has promised the investigation of the June 17 break-in at the Democratic National Committee will be "the most extensive, thorough and comprehensive investigation since the assassination of President Kennedy," the Washington Post reported today.

Kleindienst was quoted as saying that, when the investigation is over, "no credible, fairminded person is going to be able to say that we whitewashed or dragged our feet on it."

He dismissed as "political" the charges by Democrats that the Republican-controlled Justice Department cannot fairly investigate a matter involving the Committee for the Re-election of the President, the Post said.

Kleindienst rejected a Democratic proposal that a special prosecutor from outside the Justice Department be named. But he said he was not personally supervising the probe.

"A special prosecutor is impossible," the Post quoted Kleindienst as saying. "It's not a matter of looking into the conduct of government officials, but alleged criminal

conduct on the part of private individuals."

"Who are you going to substitute for the FBI?" he quipped.

The attorney general declined to predict when the Justice Department's investigation will be completed. The Post said its sources have indicated that indictments will be handed down before the presidential election in order to avoid charges of political interference.

The Post said Kleindienst denied published reports that Robert C. Mardian, former assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Internal Security Divisions and now an official of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, was involved in the break-in and bugging incident.

Kleindienst acknowledged the political sensitivity of the affair, but insisted, "I'm not nervous about it," the Post said.

It reported that when Kleindienst was asked whether he knew who was behind the incident, he paused and then said, "I think so." But he insisted that he does not "know" and declined to elaborate on his answer, the Post said.