

PROSECUTORS GET G.O.P. FUND CASES

Nixon and Maryland Panels
Accused of 5 Violations

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WASHINGTON, July 5—President Nixon's main re-election finance committee and officials of a Republican finance committee in Maryland were accused today of five "apparent violations" of the Federal campaign spending law.

The citations were issued and referred to the Justice Department by the Office of Federal Elections of the General Accounting Office, the agency charged with enforcing the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

One of the Maryland officials named, Blagden H. Wharton, a 52-year-old vice president of the Maryland National Bank, has already been indicted by a state grand jury in Anne Arundel County for violating the state election law. The charges grew out of the same transaction. He has pleaded not guilty.

In a report published today, the Federal agency said it was asking the Justice Department to consider prosecution not only of Mr. Wharton, the former treasurer of the Salute to Ted Agnew night committee, but also of other Maryland Republicans.

\$50,000 Transfer

The party officials and their bookkeeper, Roy Pfautch of St. Louis, were accused by the G.A.O. of "knowingly and willfully making false, fictitious and fraudulent statements" in Federal campaigning spending reports to conceal a secret \$50,000 transfer to a fund-raising dinner honoring Vice President Agnew in Baltimore May 19, 1972. The funds were for Republican candidates in Maryland.

The accounting agency said that the \$50,000 transfer from the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, the principal Nixon campaign treasury here, had been divided up and disguised in the dinner committee's reports as though it had been received from 31 individual contributors so as "to make ticket sales appear to be greater than they were."

The Maryland Republicans were also accused of failing to keep required records and of accepting and failing to report \$47,600 in contributions made directly by corporations, including about \$350 worth of hors d'oeuvres from a Baltimore caterer for the dinner honoring

Mr. Agnew.

Solicited from Dealer

Corporate contributions are permitted under Maryland's state election law, and in a state financial report the Republicans listed gifts of up to \$2,500 each from a list of construction, real estate, insurance and motel corporations and from automobile dealerships and restaurants. But corporate gifts are prohibited under the Federal campaign law. The G.A.O. said that the Maryland Republicans simply omitted them from their Federal reports.

In addition, the agency said the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President had failed to report the \$50,000 transaction in its own disclosure statements. The money was part of a \$150,000 donation solicited

by Alexander Lankler, the state chairman, from Florenz R. Ourisman, a former Maryland automobile dealer.

The G.A.O. said that Mr. Lankler had obtained that \$50,000 in April, 1972, from Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Nixon finance committee, and had placed it in his safe-deposit box at a Potomac, Md., bank until the following June.

The report said that Mr. Lankler and others later arranged to solicit "fictitious contributors" whose names were listed in a September financial statement as donors of the \$50,000. After being "run through" the Maryland Republicans' books, the money was eventually returned to the Nixon finance committee.

Officials of the accounting agency said today that the non-reporting complaint against the Nixon committee cited in the report today was the 24th violation of the Federal campaign law charged by the agency against the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. The committee has already been found guilty of 11 violations and has been fined \$11,000, the maximum penalty, in the United States District Court here.