

Two federal agencies, the General Accounting Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have begun inquiries into the possible connection between President Nixon's re-election campaign and the attempted break-in of the Democratic National headquarters in Washington last June. The investigations apparently were prompted by the disclosure on Tuesday [1 Aug] by the Washington Post that a check for \$25,000 intended for the President's campaign was actually deposited in the account of one of the five men arrested during the break-in.

The check came from Kenneth Dahlberg, the Midwest campaign chairman for the President. Mr. Dahlberg said that he had collected the money from many sources and had consolidated them into one cashier's check dated April 10th. He said that the last he saw of it was on April 11th when he gave it to Maurice Stans, formerly Secretary of Commerce, now the chief fund-raiser for the Nixon campaign. Mr. Dahlberg said he gave the check to Mr. Stans three days after a law went into effect requiring the disclosure of the sources of campaign funds.

Today's New York Times points out that if Mr. Dahlberg's memory of the dates involved is correct, officials at the General Accounting Office said there appear to have been at least two, and perhaps three, violations of the federal election campaign act. The director of federal elections, Philip Hughes, said, "Regardless of when some guy out in the field collects a lot of miscellaneous cash the date he turned it in to the committee is the governing date for the required reporting. If it was April 10th, then the law was in effect and they were required to report it to us, when, as far as we can tell, they did not."

In addition, Mr. Hughes said, the financial filings of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President also failed to disclose the expenditure or transfer of any amount that would fit the facts surrounding the \$25,000. He said, "That would be a separate violation, if they did that."

Finally, Mr. Hughes said, his investigators are checking to see if Mr. Dahlberg's check constituted a violation of the section of the new law that specifically forbids any contribution to be given in the name of a person other than the contributor. The maximum penalty for each violation, if proved, would be one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine or both.

In the meantime, Joseph Califano, the counsel to the Democratic National Committee, told reporters the Democrats plan to make their third request for the appointment of a special prosecutor in the case. Mr. Califano contended that the Attorney General, Richard Kleindienst, "has got to have some interests, even if they're unconscious, in not embarrassing the President and his party."

The FBI, following its usual practice, would not comment on the reasons for its investigation but it did purchase from the office of federal elections copies of the 250-page report filed by the Nixon re-election committee.

[Complete.]