

Nixon Check Report 'Missing'

By Morton Kondracke

WASHINGTON — (CST) — The head of the new federal campaign spending watchdog agency said yesterday his office can find no record that President Nixon's campaign committee reported receipt of a \$25,000 check that has been linked to the break-in and bugging of Democratic party headquarters in June.

"I've not been able to identify that check or any receipt that fits its description," said Philip S. Hughes, director of the federal Elections Office of the General Accounting Office.

Hughes said he assigned two investigators to begin searching through the books of the Committee for the Re-election of the President to see if there is a record of the \$25,000 there.

Dahlberg Report

President Nixon's midwest finance chairman, Kenneth H. Dahlberg, reported hand-

ing the check to the campaign's national finance chairman, Maurice H. Stans, but it ended up in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker.

Barker was one of five men arrested at 2 a.m. on June 17 in the offices of the Democratic National Committee in possession of electronic listening devices and photographic copying equipment.

President Nixon's re-election committee and the White House have denied any involvement in the break-in, despite several threads leading in their direction.

The committee vowed full cooperation with Hughes' inquiry.

Other Checks

In addition to the \$25,000, which Dahlberg said he turned over to Stans on April 10, Hughes said he is looking for traces of four checks totalling \$89,000 that

also were deposited in Barker's account on April 20.

When Barker was arrested, he and his companions were in possession of 53 \$100 bills traced through their serial numbers to the \$89,000 withdrawn by Barker from his account in May.

The four checks deposited on April 20 were issued in the name of Manuel Ogarrío Daguerre, a Mexico City lawyer.

In connection with both the \$25,000 and the \$89,000 Hughes said he is trying to determine whether the Federal Election Campaign Act has been violated.

'Hassles' Seen

Despite Nixon campaign committee vows of cooperation, Hughes said there may be "hassles" over whether GAO investigators can see and disclose records dated before April 7, when the campaign law went into effect.

Hughes' opinion is that,

regardless when it was collected from donors, Dahlberg said he turned the \$25,000 over to Stans on April 10 and "the law was in effect and they were required to report it to us."

He added, "As far as I can tell, they did not."

Failure to report expenditure or a transfer of the \$25,000 — as well as its receipt — could constitute a separate violation, Hughes said.

Cashier's Check

In addition, Hughes noted, federal law requires contributions to be reported in the name of the person who made them, whereas Dahlberg has acknowledged that he converted cash contributions into a cashier's check made out in his own name.

Maximum penalty for violations of the campaign law are one year in jail and a \$1000 fine on each count.