

STANS DEMANDS G.A.O. FUND AUDIT FOR DEMOCRATS

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G.O.P. Campaign Official
Asserts That Inquiry Would
Be 'Very Revealing'

FINDS REPORT IN ERROR

Mankiewicz, Urging Special
Prosecutor, Assails Plan
for Government Action

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 —

The Committee to Re-elect the President responded today to allegations of "apparent and possible violations" of the Federal election campaign act by demanding that the General Accounting Office "begin immediately a full and comprehensive audit" of Democratic fund-raising records.

Charging that a report critical of the Republicans issued yesterday by the accounting office, the auditing and investigative agency of Congress, contained "serious misrepresentations," Maurice H. Stans, finance chairman of President Nixon's campaign committee, counterattacked by urging a similar study of Senator George McGovern's organization.

Mr. Stans said that "we have reason to believe" such an investigation "will be very revealing."

Mankiewicz Assails G.A.O.

Meanwhile, in a television interview here, Frank Mankiewicz, the national political coordinator of the McGovern campaign, was caustic in his remarks about the G.A.O.'s decision to turn over to the Justice Department for further action its report alleging violations involving up to \$350,000 in contributions to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

"You do not, in a well-ordered honest society, ask a fox to find out who got into the chicken coop," Mr. Mankiewicz said on the Columbia Broadcasting System program "Face

the Nation." *at how*
Sees Lack of Belief

He reiterated earlier suggestions by Lawrence F. O'Brien, national chairman of the McGovern campaign, that "since people in or near the Administration are obviously involved," a special prosecutor be appointed.

"As long as the Administration refuses to do it," he added, "and as long as they are asking Mr. [Attorney General Richard G.] Kleindienst to tell us whether Mr. [John N.] Mitchell

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did anything wrong, nobody is going to believe it, and for good reason."

Mr. Kleindienst became Attorney General last winter when Mr. Ritchell resigned to run the President's re-election campaign. Mr. Mitchell left the campaign post in July, citing family reasons.

In its report yesterday, the General Accounting Office said "it was impossible to close certain gaps" in the investigation. It left unclear the reported connection between "the apparent violations" and five women who were arrested in the early morning hours of June 17 with electronic devices at Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex here.

One of those arrested, Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real estate operator, later turned out to have possessed funds that were traced as contributions to the Nixon re-election committee. Another, James W. McCord Jr., was a security coordinator for the committee.

In his statement issued here today, Mr. Stans said that the "G.A.O. report asserts no connection whatever between the finance committee and the so-called Watergate affair."

"Such inferences have been solely politically inspired," he added.

Mr. Stans accused the Congressional agency of having hastened its report and of having given too little weight to the re-election committee's explanations of why it considered the funds in question to have been contributed before the April 7 deadline, after which they would have had to have been reported under law.

"Strong and persistent pressures" on the G.A.O. from Democratic members of Congress, he said, were "responsible to a high degree for the inaccuracies in the report."

In asking for an investigation of the McGovern campaign records, Mr. Stans said that there "must be no reluctance" on the part of the G.A.O. to pursue it "as vigor-

ously" as the inquiry into the Republican committee.

'A Nettlesome Thing'

In the meantime, in an appearance on the American Broadcasting Company's "issue and answers" television program here, John B. Connally, who heads the Democrats for Nixon organization's said that he thought the facts will come out, whatever they are, about the Watergate case.

Asked if he felt that repeated charges of a connection between the Republican finance committee and the incident would be harmful to Mr. Nixon campaign, the former Secretary of the Treasury said:

"Oh, obviously it is a nettlesome thing; it is going to be harmful. I don't think it is going to be a major issue, anything of the kind, but I think it obviously doesn't help."

That the Democrats intend to try to make the incident a major issue is of little doubt. Senator McGovern in recent weeks has made frequent references to it.

In Decatur, Ill., at an airport rally last week, for instance, the Presidential nominee told his listeners that he was in his third week of "a listening tour." Then, he added:

"So far the only evidence we have that the President is listening is the eavesdropping equipment that was captured at 2:20 A.M. on the night of

June 17 when five apparent agents for the Committee to Re-elect the President were caught red-handed inside the Democratic National Committee with sophisticated eavesdropping and wirtapping equipment."

Today, Mr. Mankiewicz, appearing on "Face the Nation" with Gary Hartr, the McGovern campaign director, sounded even tougher.

Asked why he thought Mr. McGovern would be able to draw Mr. Nixon out of his Presidential role into partisan campaigning, Mr. Mankiewicz declared:

"Because he's now sitting on a major scandal, and if he doesn't, the American people

will conclude, as the evidence now seems to indicate, that it infects the entire Administration; his former Attorney General, his former Secretary of Commerce [Mr. Stans], now stand accused, and the evidence seems quite clear, of collecting secret funds and spending them contrary to law, and, indeed, hiring burglars with them."

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, Vice President Agnew, speaking on the National Broadcasting Company's program "Meet the Press," said that "the McGovern rhetoric is absolutely unbelievable."

In reply to a question about his expressed desire to tone down his own campaign image as a hard-swinging orator, the Vice President said that "where the opposition becomes unfair" or when "they assault the President or the Administration in a personal way, as he has done, I am not going to hesitate to respond to that."

In another campaign development, Sargent Shriver, Mr. McGovern's running mate, cancelled all but one of a number of visits to middle Western cities that he had planned for this week.

He will fly to Detroit tomorrow afternoon, returning Tuesday. Earlier, he had planned to visit Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio, as well as upstate New York.

A campaign aide said it had been decided that Mr. Shriver and Mr. McGovern, who will be in Washington most of the week, should devote the time to strategy sessions before the campaign gets into full swing on Labor Day.