

GAO to Probe Dems Too

GOP Charge Was Expected

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The General Accounting Office has agreed to investigate Republican National Chairman Robert J. Dole's charges that Sen. George McGovern's organization has committed at least seven campaign fund violations.

Philip S. Hughes, director of GAO's Office of Federal Elections, said he has been expecting the charges since President Nixon claimed Tuesday that there were "technical violations" on both sides in spending and reporting contributions.

Two Audits

Hughes said he prepared his staff to begin an audit of McGovern's campaign at the same time the GAO investigates nine alleged violations by the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

Dole said yesterday that the McGovern violations would mount into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Frank Mankiewicz, McGovern's political director, responded categorically to three of Dole's charges and said he would find the answers to the other four.

Mankiewicz said that Dole's allegations came after the GAO investigation of \$350,000 in Nixon campaign funds that sprung from an alleged attempt to bug the Democratic National Headquarters.

Nixon Men Quizzed

As Dole raised the charges against McGovern's campaign, two close associates of the President answered questions in secret about the Democratic charges of scandal in the Nixon campaign.

Maurice H. Stans, once Nixon's commerce secretary and now his campaign finance director, underwent an "informal" interview by staff aides of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is looking into charges of mishandled campaign funds.

Charles W. Colson, a special counsel to the President, appeared in U.S. District Court to make a sworn statement in a \$1 million civil suit that Democrats have filed in connection with the alleged bugging.

GAO has reported tracing

\$114,000 intended for Nixon's campaign to the Florida bank account of one of the bugging suspects, Bernard L. Barker.

Stans, who has complained the GAO report was riddled with inaccuracies, met for 90 minutes with the Banking Committee staff. Sources said the discussion "touched on" how the money reached Barker's account, but no details were disclosed.