

Watergate Affair Sparks Feud

By PATRICK COLLINS

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 WASHINGTON — The Watergate affair has touched off a behind-the-scenes struggle between the most powerful committees in President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Key antagonists in the feud are Maurice Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, and Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

Stans feels the silence imposed on him by Magruder and other Nixon campaign bosses has unjustly exposed him and other finance committeemen to severe criticism over the bugging incident. And Stans' recent notoriety is expected to hamper his efforts to raise money for the Nixon fund drive.

THE FORMER commerce secretary has been named in both a congressional staff investigation and a General Accounting Office report tracing \$114,000 in Nixon campaign deductions to one of the seven men charged in the June 17

break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Through committee spokesmen, Stans has denied any part in the bugging scheme, but he repeatedly has declined to discuss his financing operation, on the advice of campaign officials. At one point Stans prepared a complete statement, but campaign leaders talked him out of releasing it.

The feeling at the Finance Committee is that Magruder or his public relations men would have spoken out in defense of Stans and openly discussed the use of the \$114,000. But Magruder has not spoken out or made himself available to the press.

THE DISPUTE between Stans and Magruder has seeped down the rank and file of the finance committee.

Some of these aides are harshly critical of top officials of the Nixon Re-Election Committee and have let their views seep out publicly.

Stans has talked about his problems privately with former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, who resigned in July as Nixon's campaign manager, and a few weeks ago, Stans even got a cheerful call of encouragement from the White House.

NEW ORLEANS

in Nixon Campaign Ranks

But now Stans apparently has decided to make his own defense, circumventing the Campaign Committee public relations staff, which reports to Magruder.

THIS IS APARENT from the fact that a former White House counsel, Clark Mollenhoff, reported in the Des Moines Register yesterday that Stans had conferred with Nixon counsel John Dean

about a \$25,000 campaign contribution which was cashed by one of the bugging suspects.

According to Mollenhoff's report, Dean assured Stans that even though the \$25,000 contribution came to Stans after April 7, when the new federal campaign disclosure act went into effect, the donation still did not have to be reported.

The White House counsel based his decision on a provi-

sion of the law which says that whenever an agreement to deliver funds is made, it shall be considered a contribution.

IN THE REVISED account of the \$25,000, the contributor, Dwayne Andreas, a Minneapolis businessman and former supporter of Democrat Hubert H. Humphrey; Kenneth Dahlberg, Midwest fund raiser for Nixon and the man who col-

lected the money; and Stans all agree that Andreas promised the contribution last January. They said he reaffirmed his promise in February but did not get around to handing over the cash to Dahlberg until April 9.

Before Dean gave legal counsel to Stans, he was commissioned by the President to conduct a "thorough" investigation of the Watergate incident.