

OCT 25 1972 SFChronicle

GOP Aide's

Doubts on

Five Checks

Washington

Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the President's re-election committee, has disclosed that he questioned the legality of \$114,000 in campaign checks that have been linked to the bugging of national Democratic offices here.

His concern about legal questions, he told a Florida investigator, was the reason he did not deposit the five checks in the committee's bank account.

Instead, Sloan said, he gave the checks to ex-White House aide G. Gordon Liddy, who at the time was financial counsel to the committee. Sloan quoted Liddy as saying he would "take care" of the checks, according to Martin Dardis, chief investigator for state attorney Richard E. Gerstein.

FIRST

Sloan's comments about Liddy, one of seven defendants in the bugging of national Democratic offices here, mark the first time any officials of the committee have acknowledged that they were concerned that the contributions might be illegal.

A General Accounting Office report on the handling of the \$114,000 quoted Sloan as saying that in early April he gave the checks to Liddy who had them cashed. Liddy turned the proceeds over to the committee about the middle of May, Sloan told the GAO.

Dardis interviewed Sloan at his McLean, Va. residence last week in preparation for a state court trial of Bernard L. Barker of Miami, another defendant in the bugging case.

CHARGE

Barker goes on trial in Miami Monday on a charge of fraudulently notarizing the signature of a prominent Republican fund raiser so he could cash one of the checks in the amount of \$25,000.

The GAO report noted that all five of the committee checks had been deposited to Barker's account in a Miami bank.

Dardis quoted Sloan as saying he was concerned about the legality of the \$25,000 check because it had not been reported to the GAO's Office of Federal Elections and was dated April 9, two days after the effective date of a new law requiring the reporting of all large contributions.

Sloan questioned the legality of the other checks, Dardis said, because they were drawn on Mexican banks.

An investigation by Dardis earlier disclosed that Barker deposited all five of the checks in his account at the Republic National Bank of Miami.

L.A. Times Service