

There Is a Special Fund, GOP Campaign Aide Says

Washington

Clark MacGregor, chairman of President Nixon's campaign committee, acknowledged for the first time yesterday the existence of a special campaign fund under the control of high-ranking Republican campaign officials.

But MacGregor said none of the funds was used to finance a widespread campaign of political espionage against Democratic presidential hopefuls.

The money was gathered during the 1968 presidential campaign and held for use during the 1972 primary season, MacGregor said in a television interview.

REPORT

The General Accounting Office has reported the Nixon campaign had on hand a fund of at least \$350,000, whose receipts and disbursements were not accounted for. The Washington Post has reported the fund had as much as \$700,000 and was used to finance the Watergate break-in and a widespread effort to disrupt the campaigns of Democrats seeking their party's presidential nomination last spring and summer.

MacGregor, interviewed on National Public Affairs Center for Television by Elizabeth Drew, did not say if the special fund was used to finance the Watergate break-in last June at Democratic National Headquarters.

The chief of the Committee for the Re-Election of the

Garlic Truck-Bus Crash Kills 9

Lima

Nine persons died and 14 were injured when an inter-provincial bus crashed into a truck loaded with garlic on the Pan American Highway 250 miles south of Lima, police reported yesterday.

Authorities said preliminary reports indicated that the crash occurred Tuesday night when the bus went out of control following a tire blowout.

Associated Press

President did say, however, that whether or not the fund was a secret one was a question of semantics.

CONTROL

MacGregor said the money was under the control of Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former White House aide now with the re-election committee; former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, now finance chairman of the re-election effort; and G. Gordon Liddy, chief counsel to the committee until he was fired for refusing to answer FBI questions. Liddy is among five persons indicted by a federal grand jury in the Watergate case.

Also mentioned by MacGregor was a new name in the controversy, Bart Porter, an advance man with the committee, who Mac-

Gregor also said had access to the fund.

MacGregor, chairman of the committee since July 1, when former Attorney General John N. Mitchell resigned, said he had conducted his own inquiry into several of the stories published by the Post about alleged political espionage by the Republicans.

Among his findings MacGregor said, were that:

- Donald Segretti, a West Coast lawyer, never spoke with White House aide Dwight Chapin about a campaign to sabotage the Democratic primary campaign.

- White House aide Kenneth W. Clawson did not send a forged letter to the Manchester New Hampshire Union Leader accusing Senator Edmund S. Muskie of making ethnic slurs.

- Aside from the Watergate break-in, there was no connection between the committee and White House and other alleged political espionage and sabotage.

In acknowledging the cash fund in the Post sources said was kept in Stans office, MacGregor said it was intended for us if a serious primary challenge arose to President Nixon's re-election.

No real challenge was made by other Republicans, but MacGregor said some of the money was used to investigate serious disruptions of campaign appearances by cabinet members during the primary season.

Associated Press