

GOP Campaign Fund Problem

SYRACUSE (N.Y.) — (AP) — The chief of the General Accounting Office says efforts by his agency to trace the legality of Republican campaign funds were hampered because records had been destroyed.

Elmer B. Staats told newsmen yesterday that his congressional watchdog agency has had "great difficulty in getting information from the Committee to Re-Elect the President" about alleged discrepancies in campaign funding.

"It was only late in our investigation that Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the re-election committee, agreed to give information

to us," Staats said.

Staats said the congressional agency has sent a full report of its investigation to Chairman Wright Patman of the House Banking Committee. Staats said it would be up to Patman to make the findings public.

Staats also said an investigation of the funding of Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern's campaign, requested by GOP National Chairman Robert Dole, has found one unreported fund-raising group backing McGovern in New York City. He said the GAO would be "making a further response to Sen. Dole before election day."