

Nixon Donor's Bank Charter

Washington

A General Accounting Office report released yesterday said a \$25,000 contributor to President Nixon's re-election campaign named two of the President's top aides as references in winning a prompt federal bank charter.

The report prepared for Chairman Wright Patman's House Banking Committee said the contributor, Kenneth Dahlberg, named former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, finance chairman of Nixon's re-election campaign and Clark MacGregor, then the President's chief adviser on congressional relations and now his campaign manager, as references in his application for the charter for the bank in Minnetonka, Minn.

The GAO report was ordered by Patman, a Texas Democrat, after his committee refused to authorize a full scale probe before the November 7 election of Republican campaign financing connected with the alleged bugging of Democratic National headquarters at the Watergate.

The staff report said the bank charter was awarded

in 89 days, a month faster than normal, and was awarded before a scheduled hearing at which two other applicants were to compete for the charter.

The staff said it charges no wrongdoing by the contributor but said federal Comptroller of the Currency William B. Camp should have recognized the "political implications" and investigated further before rushing into approval of the charter.

House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford, in a complaint to Speaker Carl Albert, said making public such a report during congressional adjournment "indicates deliberate violation of House rules and procedures." He called on Albert to suspend the responsible Patman committee employees until the House can investigate.

Associated Press