

GAO Report on McGovern Financing

Washington

The General Accounting Office said yesterday the errors it has found in Senator George McGovern's campaign financing operations are mostly minor and do not call for action by the attorney general.

Responding to questions raised by Senator Robert Dole, chairman of the Republican National Committee, Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats said most of the errors appeared to be the result of sloppy book-keeping and had been corrected.

One question raised by Dole concerned payments by a campaign committee of \$3000 to McGovern and \$2000 to his wife for "living expenses." Dole said the pay-

ments appeared to be violations of the law prohibiting the diversion of campaign contributions for personal use.

The GAO said it had been informed the payments should have been described as reimbursement for personal expenses and not living expenses. Campaign officials said he money was used to meet entertainment costs at the McGovern home, for extra help at home while McGovern were away campaigning, and for travel expenses of \$35 a day for McGovern and \$25 for his wife.

Since the law does not limit such expenses, said the GAO, "we offer no comment on these payments."

Associated Press