

## **GAO Plan For Election Financing**

New York

The General Accounting Office will recommend to Congress that presidential elections be financed solely through public funds, the comptroller general of the U.S. said yesterday.

Referring to the misuse of funds uncovered in connection with the Watergate scandal and other matters, Comptroller General Elmer Staats said:

"In general there is no complete guarantee that we can avoid some of the kinds of problems as in the last election. However, we do believe that public financing, particularly after the primary, can avoid some of the problems."

Elaborating on "public financing," Staats said that while he is not opposed to the dollar checkoff system in the present law, he would prefer establishment of a "permanent system of appropriations based on a formula."

He said a list of election reform recommendations would be submitted by the GAO to Congress in July.

*Associated Press*