

Probers

Dig in

Agencies

WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Congressional probers are digging for information about people who switched from jobs with the White House, executive offices or the President's re-election team to posts with federal agencies.

Various agencies — from the Interstate Commerce Commission to the Consumer Product Safety Commission — are being asked to give written information about such personnel shifts to the House Commerce Committee investigation subcommittee.

The requests stem from concern by some Democratic congressmen about the state of the so-called independent regulatory agencies that Congress created to carry out administrative or judicial-type functions.

Reps. Harley O. Staggers (D-W. Va.), chairman of the Commerce Committee, and members John E. Moss (D-Sacramento) and Bob Eckhardt (D-Tex.) recently proposed legislation aimed at providing more independence to such agencies.

Staggers also asked for details of how each agency hires lawyers. He also sought the identity of the person who actually decides whether an applicant will be hired as an agency attorney.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that former White House aide Charles W. Colson and two partners made plans to place a lawyer in a key position at SEC to help their firm represent clients, but the subcommittee made its request before the Post report appeared.

The panel is investigating various matters involving SEC.