

Agnew Dinner Probe Requested

Washington

The General Accounting Office has concluded that President Nixon's campaign organization and a Maryland political committee apparently violated the law in financing a dinner honoring Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

In a report issued last night, the GAO asked Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson to investigate four incidents of apparent violations by the Salute to Ted Agnew Night Committee of Baltimore and one by the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

TRANSFER

The GAO, a congressional investigatory agency, found that the finance committee, the money-raising arm of the 1972 Nixon campaign, apparently was in violation in failing to report transfer of \$50,000 to the Agnew committee.

The report said the Agnew committee falsely listed \$49,900 of that amount as having come from ticket sales to the Agnew dinner.

One year and ten days after the Agnew dinner, the Agnew committee amended its report, deleting 31 fictitious contributions and showing the \$49,900 as being a transfer from the finance committee on June 14, 1972, the GAO said.

Agnew issued a statement last night denying he was a candidate for re-election at the time of the May 19 dinner. He said Mr. Nixon did not inform him he would be

the President's running mate until the following July 22.

In addition, Agnew said, he took no part in the handling of funds by the dinner committee and knew nothing of the \$50,000 loan from the Nixon committee until it was reported in the press.

The GAO report cited these specific incidents of apparent violations:

- The Agnew committee falsely reported contribution transfer to the Agnew committee of contributions.

- Persons acting for the Agnew committee knowingly participated in the effort to falsify, conceal, or cover the receipt of the \$50,000 from the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

STATEMENTS

- Blagden H. Wharton, treasurer of the Agnew committee, knowingly made false, fraudulent statements to the GAO and swore to materials he believed untrue.

- The Agnew committee accepted \$47,600 in corporate contributions, which are illegal where candidates for federal office are involved, and failed to report them.

- The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President failed to report the \$50,000 transfer to the Agnew committee.

The GAO said the \$47,600 given the Agnew committee by corporations was reported to authorities in Maryland, where such contributions are legal, but not to the GAO.

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