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GAO Is Probing '76 Agnew Fund-Raiser

The General Accounting Office is investigating a small California-based fund-raising organization that attempted to promote a 1976 presidential campaign for Vice President Agnew and then dropped out of sight, apparently after raising only \$25,000.

A GAO official said that "Americans for Agnew" in Los Angeles failed to file a public report by June 10 listing the sources of money collected and its disposition.

The GAO also is investigating the group for allegedly failing to declare in solicitation letters that the fund-raising drive was not authorized by the Vice President.

At one time last year, "Americans for Agnew" was authorized by the Vice President, GAO sources said, but was later disavowed by Agnew.

The GAO said the investigation of the Los Angeles group is totally unrelated to the current investigation of Agnew

by the U.S. Attorney's office in Baltimore for alleged complicity in a kickback scheme.

In solicitation letters mailed in April, the fund-raising group, headed by Los Angeles publicist John L. Daniel, said that Agnew had not made a "definite decision" to enter the 1976 presidential race, but that funds were needed to build a campaign organization and convince Agnew to enter the contest.

A GAO source said the government originally began investigating "Americans for Agnew" on the basis of allegations that contributions were being siphoned off by organizers of the group.

Although it so far has been unable to substantiate that allegation, the GAO discovered in the course of its probe that the fund-raising group failed to file the required statements with the government, and failed to mention Agnew's disavowal in its solicitation material according to a GAO source.