

\$4 Million in Till, Nixon's Campaign Committee Reports

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The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President reported yesterday that it has \$4 million in cash on hand after spending almost \$1 million in the last three months, including \$241,000 for outside legal expenses.

Another large chunk of expenditures, \$395,000, went out as refunds to five corporations that, as previously reported, made illegal contributions from corporate funds without the committee's knowledge.

The committee summarized its finances in a quarterly report to the General Accounting Offices for the period June 1 through Aug. 31.

The disclosure that \$4 million remains in the till almost 10 months after President Nixon's re-election is expected to intensify efforts by the Republican National Committee for a transfer of funds to it.

The heavy legal fees over the summer reflect in part the committee's defense against a lawsuit by Common Cause that now has been settled. The biggest payment, \$76,000, went to the Washington firm of Jackson, Laskey & Parkinson.

The committee said about one-fifth of its legal fees, \$48,

000, were paid in behalf of its chairman, Maurice H. Stans. Of the \$48,000, \$33,170 went to another Washington firm, Wilkinson, Cragun & Barker.

The committee, in a memo to the GAO, said it had not known until recently that Murray Chotiner, a long-time adviser to President Nixon, had paid a total of about \$31,000 to two "reporters" who traveled with the Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. George McGovern, and filed reports with Chotiner.

The "reporters" were Lucianne Goldberg and Seymour Freidin, who were paid \$19,932 and \$10,949, respectively.

The committee indicated that during the period in question, May, 1972, through January, 1973, Chotiner had billed it for "survey services and survey expenses" without specifically naming the two purported news persons.

A surprising unexplained refund of \$113.21 in travel expenses was made to McGovern's campaign manager, Gary W. Hart of Denver. Neither Hart nor a committee spokesman could be reached for comment.