

New Charges of Election Violations

Washington

The General Accounting Office said yesterday it found three apparent violations of law in payments by President Nixon's re-election campaign committee to two journalists working as campaign spies.

The GAO referred its findings to the Justice Department for investigation and appropriate action.

The apparent violations emerged from an investigation by the GAO into payments totaling about \$35,000 made by Murray Chotiner to Seymour Freidin and Lucianne Goldberg from April 7, 1972, to last January.

The payments were for secret reports on the presidential campaigns of Senator George McGovern (Dem-S. Dak.) and other Democratic candidates, made under the code name of "Chapman's Friend."

The GAO said the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President had reported the payments to the GAO as representing reimbursement of travel and other expenses to Chotiner, who headed a

task force on ballot security for the Committee for The Re-election of the President.

The failure of the finance committee to obtain and keep complete records of the expenditures and to report the details of them apparently violates three sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act, the GAO said.

Under the act, the Office of Federal Elections, which is part of the GAO, has only investigatory powers and must refer apparent violations to the Justice Department for further action.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the elections office, said Chotiner paid Freidin and Mrs. Goldberg \$1000 a week each for daily reports by telephone on the campaign activities of McGovern and other candidates.

In submitting vouchers for reimbursement to the finance committee, Chotiner listed the payments as "reimbursement for survey," and never mentioned the journalists' names, Hughes said.

Associated Press