

WATERGATE

Page 12 Section A ☆☆☆☆ S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, M

Top '72 hopefuls collected \$126 million--Nixon got half

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The four biggest-spending presidential hopefuls in 1972 collected more than \$126 million, with President Nixon's

re-election juggernaut accumulating about half the money, a federal report said yesterday.

The General Accounting Office issued its final report

on the 1972 election campaigns, acknowledging that it was far from complete because it covered only part of the year and because it was hard to keep track of money transfers between campaign committees.

GAO officials, in a briefing on the report, said Nixon's re-election campaign collected at least \$43,298,435, plus about \$5.6 million from transfers, during the period after the law requiring reports on contributions went into effect on April 7, 1972.

The Committee for the Re-election of the President, in an earlier response to a suit filed by Common Cause, reported contributions of \$19.9 million before April 7, bringing the total for the campaign to about \$68,850,585.

GAO said the Nixon campaign reported spending \$49,072,062, not including money paid out before the April 7 deadline.

Sen. George McGovern's campaign, the GAO said, collected \$48,931,783 after April 7, plus about \$3.2 million transferred from other committees, for a total of about \$52,182,907. Some \$45,002,742 in expenses was listed.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey

(D-Minn.), collected \$4,267,777, the GAO said, not including about \$87,600 from other campaign committees. The spending totaled \$4,838,794.

Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, the only other candidate to collect more than \$1 million, reported donations of \$1,600,303, plus about \$1718 in transferred funds. Expenses were \$1,603,465.

Fred Thompson, director of the GAO's office of elections, said the report was also incomplete because it was almost impossible to calculate the amount of the contributions and expenses of the political parties on the presidential races.

Among the other candidates: Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), collected \$722,911, plus about \$12,000 in committee transfers.