

Republican treasurer may have faked audits

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The National Republican Congressional Committee is working with the FBI to examine the committee's books after allegations of concocted audits surfaced. The NRCC hired an outside auditor to review its accounting and a law firm to oversee an internal investigation, The Washington Post reported Thursday. Committee officials told the Post the NRCC's problems may be extensive, with Republican lawmakers and former committee staff members alleging Christopher J. Ward, listed as treasurer for 83 Republican fundraising committees, fabricated audits and other financial documents for 2003 to 2006. Some of the documents during that time frame were turned over to a Wachovia Bank branch in McLean, Va., in October 2006, when the NRCC borrowed \$8 million for congressional campaigns. Ward was dismissed in January as the NRCC announced it found financial "irregularities" that "may include fraud," the Post said. Concerned that they could be investigated for possible violations of bank fraud laws, NRCC officials called in the FBI, anonymous sources told the Post. Wachovia Bank declined comment, as did the Federal Election Commission, which could fine NRCC if it misstated its financial position in monthly reports, the Post said.

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