

# Dole Defends FBI, Rips 'Muskieism'

4/19/71 By Helen Dewar  
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WILLIAMSBURG, April 18—Republican National Chairman Robert Dole accused Sen. Edmund S. Muskie today of trying to turn Americans against the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Comparing the Maine Democrat's criticism of the FBI to the "McCarthyism of the Fifties," Sen. Dole (R-Kan.) called on Muskie to provide proof to back his charges of unwarranted FBI surveillance at 40 to 60 Earth Day rallies all over the nation last year.

Dole's attack was one of the sharpest yet by a top GOP official against Muskie, who

is widely regarded as the front-running Democratic presidential contender.

It came in remarks prepared for delivery Monday to the opening session of the two-day Republican Governors Conference here. The text was released yesterday in an apparent effort to prevent Dole's remarks from being overshadowed by those of President Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew, who are scheduled to participate in the deliberations Monday morning.

It will be the first time Mr. Nixon has attended a GOP governors' conference since he was inaugurated.

The presence of the President and vice president is considered a political fence-mending effort. At the conference last December, many of the governors were outspoken in their criticism of the administration, particularly for its campaign tactics in the 1970 congressional elections.

In his speech, Dole charged that the nation is threatened by what he called a "concentrated effort to destroy public confidence in law enforcement," which he said is being carried out for political purposes.

See GOVERNORS, A4, Col. 2

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GOV. LINWOOD HOLTON  
... defends Nixon

## GOVERNORS, From A1

"What we have here, whether or not those who are leading the attack will admit it, is a concerted and deliberate effort to turn the FBI in the eyes of the American people into an American version of the Gestapo," said Dole.

### Hits "Muskieism"

"It has been well said in recent days," he added, "that the McCarthyism of the Fifties pales by comparison with the Muskieism of the Seventies."

Dole disputed Muskie's contention that the FBI stationed

agents at many Earth Day rallies last spring. Dole said he has been informed that the FBI had men at only four rallies. "In the interest of fairness, I urge the senator to provide details on the other rallies he claims were spied on," he said.

Turning to the Republican Party, Dole forecast rosy prospects in the 1972 presidential race. He predicted a "relatively stable" economy, "relatively high" employment and "zero or near zero" American casualties in Vietnam, with the latter to come about "in the very near future."

He urged the governors to become active, early campaigners for Mr. Nixon's reelection. "Talk positively about the President and his programs," Dole said; "attack those who attack him unreasonably, defend him when you know him to be right."

Without having read Dole's text, Virginia Gov. Linwood Holton, the conference host, appeared to be following its prescription.

At a mid-afternoon press conference held as the 22 expected governors were beginning to trickle in, Holton defended the administration's foreign and domestic policies,

endorsed the Nixon-Agnew slate as an "unbeatable ticket" for 1972, and said relations are good between the governors and the administration.

However, he said he disagreed with Agnew's periodic attacks on the press.

Asked about Democratic criticism of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Holton said he has full confidence in Hoover's abilities. But Holton said he does not advocate the GOP governors' conference adopting a vote-of-confidence resolution in support of Hoover's retention as FBI chief. He said he was "not sure it would be of benefit."