Dole Won't Return Political Money From Time Warner

Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.), who last week singled out Time Warner Inc. when he accused the entertainment industry of seeking to "profit from the debasing of America," yesterday said he will not return \$21,000 in campaign contributions from Time Warner's political committee.

"I think it demonstrates that they didn't buy anything with Bob Dole," the Republican presidential hopeful said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "It sort of dispels this view that every time somebody makes a donation that you're in their pocket."

Dole brushed off criticisms that he was selective in his attacks on violent films, omitting movies with Republican actors Bruce Willis, now starring in the action hit "Die Hard With a Vengeance," and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I'm not a film critic," the Kansas Republican said. "I'm just saying in a general way we need a dialogue, and I'm going to start a dialogue."

Movie producer Rob Reiner told "Meet the Press" that Hollywood's contribution to violence in America was minimal, "maybe even possibly nonexistent." The focus of the debate, he said, should shift to the "real causes and contributions of violence in society, which is assault weapons and handguns."

Former education secretary William J. Bennett said it was not a question of censorship but companies such as Time Warner assuming greater moral responsibility.

"They don't need to poison the environment with this kind of stuff," he said, quoting from a song that graphically depicts a rape scene.