

By *GOP Chairman*

AT&T, Demo Pact Hit

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Republican National Chairman Robert Dole said today an arrangement by American Telephone & Telegraph Co. to delay collection of a huge telephone bill from the Democratic National Committee appeared to violate the Corrupt Practices Act.

The Kansas Senator called for investigation of the arrangement whereby AT&T agreed to provide telephone service at the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach next July in spite of a \$1.5 million debt owed AT&T from the 1968 convention in Chicago.

In a news conference in which he presented a Republican counterattack against claims the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. agreed to underwrite part of this year's GOP convention in exchange for a favorable settlement of federal antitrust cases against the firm, Dole said of the alleged AT&T arrangement:

"This is a very substantial contribution to the Democrat committee from one single corporation — substantially more than the \$100,000 guarantee to the city of San Diego which has been falsely alleged to have been given to the Republican National Convention."

Cites Section

Dole cited a section of the Corrupt Practices Act which prohibits political contributions by corporations. It defines contributions as "loans



ASKS ACTION AGAINST DEMO COMMITTEE
Senator Robert Dole demands hearing on phone bill

—UPI Photo

or anything of value."

AT&T issued a statement saying: "Telephone service at the Democratic National Convention will be on a cash basis — strictly a business transaction. The party will pay administrative and engineering costs to AT&T in the next few days and the balance of the estimated telephone bill will be paid before the convention opens."

A spokesman for Democratic Chairman Lawrence O'Brien scoffed at Dole's charges.

"It is very obvious the Republican national chairman is attempting to divert public attention from a major scandal that is reaching

right into the White House," he said.

"The attempt will not work, the scandal remains, and the public will not be deceived by this attempt by Senator Dole."

'Pitiful'

Richard Murphy, manager of the Democratic convention, said Dole was making "a pitiful attempt to divert public attention from a major political scandal" involving ITT and the administration.

"The Democratic National Convention committee has contracted to pay all telephone installation and service costs on a schedule that will assure final payment

before the convention opens in July," Murphy said.

He added, "All financial arrangements pertaining to the 1972 Democratic convention are open to thorough scrutiny by the press and public. I challenge the Republican national chairman to lay before the public all the facts and figures pertaining to the Republican convention in San Diego.

The Democratic Party is in the red by approximately \$9 million as a result of the 1968 election campaign and has been unable to pay the telephone bill and many other bills long overdue.

Presumably FCC

Dole did not say who should conduct the public hearings he demanded but presumably he meant the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates AT&T as a public utility.

Dole spoke bitterly of his own party's troubles, which now are in the public spotlight in the form of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee into the qualifications of Richard Kleindienst to be U.S. attorney general.

Dole said the memo allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita Beard linking an ITT contribution to the GOP convention and the settlement of antitrust cases is an unfortunate, thoroughly discredited document "which would be questionable evidence in any court of law."