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GOP, Demo Chieftains Clash Over Times Ban

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Republican National Chairman Robert J. Dole accused the Kennedy-Johnson administrations yesterday of "eight years of escalation and deception" in Southeast Asia, on the basis of "destructively irresponsible" disclosures in the New York Times.

After a week of high-level Republican silence on the contents of a secret Pentagon study of U.S. involvement in Vietnam published in the Times, Dole delivered twin blasts at the Democrats and at "sensation - seeking newspapers" at a GOP fund-raising dinner at Hot Springs, Ark.

Dole, a senator from Kansas, said that "From a political standpoint, I welcome the Times stories." But he said the Times in publishing classified diplomatic documents had "endangered the sanctity" of negotiations on Soviet-American arms control, the Middle East, Berlin and a Vietnam settlement itself.

Politically, he said, the Times articles "will make it completely obvious who is to blame for getting us into this war, for escalating it, for starting the bombing, for sending in more than half a million troops and . . . for deceiving the American people."

The blame, he said, goes to "two Democratic Presidents, a couple of Vice Presidents and numerous of their co-

orts in the White House, the Defense Department and the State Department (who) conspired to get us into a large war in Asia."

Dole's Democratic counterpart, Lawrence O'Brien, immediately refuted Dole's allegations and said American war policy "was supported at every step by the Republican members of Congress and in particular by Richard Nixon

throughout the 1960s."

O'Brien said the Democratic Party hopes the war will be over before the 1972 elections "because we see only the most tragic and divisive results from such a campaign."

He also said the party favors full disclosure of the facts about U.S. involvement in Vietnam "within the context of national security."