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**Bush Rejects
'Gutter' Moves
In Campaigns**

Associated Press

Republican National Chairman George Bush disagreeing with former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman, said yesterday he does not endorse the idea of investigating the drinking habits and sex lives of political opponents.

"Crawling around in the gutter to find some weakness of a man, I don't think we need that," the GOP party chief said in an interview on the NBC "Today" show.

In testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, Ehrlichman defended use of a private investigator by saying he thought a candidate had a duty to expose his opponents disqualifying weaknesses, such as a heavy drinking habit, that might otherwise escape public notice.

While in the White House Ehrlichman employed a former New York city policeman, Anthony T. Ulasewicz, who said he was hired to dig up political dirt. Ulasewicz said that included information on sex habits and drinking of President Nixon's political enemies.

Bush said he doesn't believe this is right.

"I think opponent research is valid. I think if an opponent is thought to have done something horrendous or thought to be unfit to serve, research is valid. But the idea of just kind of digging up dirt with the purpose of blackmail or embarrassing somebody so he'd lose, I don't think that is a legitimate purpose," Bush said.

Bush also said he thinks that snooping for dirt is done by both Democrats and Republicans.