

Dole Rebutts Mondale

Wilmington, N.C.

Republican vice-presidential candidate Robert Dole said yesterday that Senator Walter Mondale's allegations that Dole and President Ford had tried to impede congressional probes of Watergate are "baseless" and "indicate desperation and panic" in the Democratic camp.

Mondale, the ^{57 OCT} Democratic vice-presidential nominee, said Tuesday that Mr. Ford, while House minority leader had tried to block the first investigation of the 1972 Watergate break-in by the House Banking Committee. Mondale also said that Dole had tried to force the Senate Watergate hearings behind closed doors.

Dole said that although he unsuccessfully tried to halt broadcast coverage of the Senate hearings, he never urged that the press be banned from them.

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