

Denise Bourdet
Pacifica Washington Bureau
(excerpt; transcribed from tape)

..... Senator Robert Dole noted that the Democratic National Committee still owes AT&T \$1.5 million in phone charges dating from the 1968 Democratic convention. Dole said AT&T's agreement to provide services for the 1972 Democratic convention without insisting on payment of the four-year-old bill amounted to "a very substantial contribution from one single corporation." Dole said the continuation of the debt violated the Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits corporate contributions to federal campaigns. The Republican Committee chairman said AT&T's agreement to provide services this year must be considered at the very least a loan, if not an outright gift, and Dole said he would ask for a Justice Department investigation of the matter.

According to the Republican party's public financial statements, the Republican National Committee owed AT&T almost \$200,000 for three years, from 1968 to 1971. Today, Chairman Dole said he had no knowledge of that debt.