

GOP Makes Some Charges of Its Own

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The Republicans reacted yesterday to the widening impact of charges of scandal in financing their 1972 nominating convention by counter-charging that the Democrats are "in violation of the law" in paying for theirs.

Senator Robert J. Dole of

Kansas, the Republican National Chairman, charged that although the Democratic National Committee still owes the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. \$1.5 million in unpaid bills for telephone service during its 1968 nominating conven-

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tion and election campaign. AT&T nonetheless is "extending credit, or a gift, or whatever it may be" to the Democrats again this year "in violation of the law."

Both the federal Corrupt Practices Act, which expires on April 7, and the new and stricter federal Election Campaign Act, which replaces it then, make it a violation for a corporation to give a contribution, service or "thing of value" to any political party or candidate.

VIOLATION

Dole's reasoning was that although the Democrats and AT&T might be guilty of a

violation, the Republicans were not because corporate donations to their conventions costs had gone not to the Republican party but nominally to "a private committee" in San Diego, commissioned to make convention arrangements.

Dole's counter-attack was scoffed at by Democratic spokesmen as a "pitiful attempt at a diversion."

According to Dole's account, the Democratic National Committee's agreement with AT&T for telephone service at the Democratic convention in Miami Beach July 10 to 13 requires the Democrats to "put up 20 per cent of the estimated

\$100,000" bill for convention phone service.

FORGIVING

"That means that the Democrat National Committee is being advanced some \$80,000 by the AT&T added to the \$1.5 million that AT&T is forgetting, or maybe forgiving," Dole asserted. "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 — not the Republican Party — which has been falsely alleged to have been given to the Republican Convention."

Both the Democratic Na-

tional Committee and AT&T immediately challenged Dole's facts. In separate statements they said that because of the \$1.5 million outstanding bills owed to AT&T by the Democrats — part of a total 1968 Democratic campaign debt of more than \$9 million — the party had agreed to pay 20 per cent of the estimated Miami Beach Convention telephone cost of \$100,000 on March 15 and the balance in full before the convention opens.

Moreover, the Democratic National Committee said that the \$1.5 million owed to the AT&T is "still open billing that will be paid."