# Dole vs. O'Brien --Break-In Charges

**Washington**

Democrats have failed to make a public-gripping issue of the Watergate affair, Senator Robert Dole of Kansas said, but Lawrence O'Brien predicted plenty of activity on Capitol Hill will keep alive the alleged political espionage aimed at Democratic headquarters.

Dole, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and O'Brien, campaign director for Democratic candidate George McGovern, agreed, but only to a degree, yesterday that McGovern will improve his present standing in polls — as much as 34 points behind President Nixon.

O'Brien predicted "a very close election, like 1960 or 1968." But Dole would only say he expects "some slippage," not enough to threaten Mr. Nixon's lead.

Dole and O'Brien confronted each other on ABC's "Issues and Answers."

McGovern is trying to use the break-in and alleged bugging at Democratic headquarters because he has no other issues, Dole said. "He wants the President to confess he was at the Watergate. Then he'd be happy. Of course, that was not the case."

"Because a couple of people (implicated in the Watergate case) had offices in the Executive Office Building . . . Democrats are trying to link this with Mr. (Maurice) Stans, John Mitchell, the President himself." Dole said.

Stans heads the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. Mitchell, formerly attorney general, was for a time Mr. Nixon's campaign manager.

O'Brien said Stans had refused to testify before the House Banking and Currency Committee, which has made a preliminary investigation of the Watergate affair and plans public hearings soon.

"Let's have some candor," O'Brien said. Dole retorted, speaking of the committee chairman, Representative Wright Patman (Dem-Tex.), "You won't have any candor with Mr. Patman . . . He doesn't know how to spell Republican."

He said he thinks Patman should put an impartial investigator in charge. O'Brien said the White House and Justice Department have ignored his demands for an impartial investigator.

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