

Dole Lays Dirty Politics to McGovern

By Lou Cannon

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Republican Party Chairman Bob Dole accused Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern yesterday of dirty politics and dubious morality and said that his finance chairman had engaged in a "massive conflict of interest" in the Virgin Islands.

Dole's nine-page statement, much of it composed of criticisms of McGovern that he and other Republican campaigners have made before, was intended by the Republican National Committee as an advance rebuttal to Sen. McGovern's television assault last night on the morality of the Nixon administration.

"Sen. McGovern has pulled one of the great whitewashing acts in political history with his posturing on the subject of morality in government," Dole said. "We are laying out that record today—with the bark off—so the American public can see George McGovern for what he really is, an opportunistic politician who has engaged in one of the dirtiest political campaigns ever to cover up a record full of questionable conduct."

Dole's statement was distributed at a press conference where he and campaign chairman Clark MacGregor joined in announcing a get-out-the-vote drive and in criticizing The Washington Post for its stories on the Watergate issue.

The Dole statement focused particularly on the activities of Henry Kimelman, the McGovern finance chairman who once served as personal assistant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

Apparently basing his charges on an account in the August 1972 Washingtonian magazine, Dole said that Kimelman had made his fortune in real estate transactions in the Virgin Islands while Udall was Secretary of the Interior. The GOP chairman said that Udall made a decision, since revoked by the Nixon administration, to relocate an airport away from a 275-acre tract which Kimelman wanted to develop for residential use.

"... Senator McGovern has never repudiated Kimelman for his direct activity in trying to bilk the taxpayers for personal profit," Dole said. "Instead, Senator McGovern accepts tens of thousands of dollars from Kimelman and has frequently vacationed at Kimelman's palatial estate in the Virgin Islands—making one wonder whether Senator McGovern knows immorality in government when he sees it."

Dole also charged that:

- McGovern is sheltering his income by taking accelerated depreciation on foreign-produced films. He based this accusation on "extremely reliable sources" whom he did not identify.

- McGovern has "forgotten his moral principles" when it

comes to campaigning. Drawing on accounts published in "McGovern: A Biography" by Robert Sam Anson, Dole said that McGovern campaigners started a whispering campaign against Republican senatorial candidate Joe Bottum in 1962, falsely alleging that Bottum belonged to right-wing organizations. And in 1968, according to the same biography, McGovern campaigners bribed one Chief Eagle Feather to experience a "vision" in which McGovern won the election. McGovern won both in 1962 and 1968.

- McGovern did not live up to his "strict code of ethics and heavy moralism" when he remained director of Food for Peace for 93 days in 1962 after he had announced his senatorial candidacy and while he was campaigning in South Dakota.

- As a bomber pilot in World War II, McGovern twice had direct knowledge of purported war crimes, once when his bombardier destroyed a farmhouse and another time when two fighter pilots bragged about shooting two Italian civilians. "The man who is all too quick to accuse Americans in Vietnam of war crimes is on record as not reporting two of which he had direct knowledge," Dole said.

Dole also accused McGovern of taking advantage of a loophole in the election law in failing to report election expenses in 1968, with allowing a "gross

abuse of nepotism" by putting his brother-in-law on the staff payroll in 1959 while the brother-in-law was holding a history teaching job at Dakota Wesleyan University and with permitting his campaign headquarters in Los Angeles to be used "to drum up publicity for riotous anti-war activities upon President Nixon's visit to Los Angeles less than three weeks ago."

McGovern was also accused of possessing "a moral double standard" for objecting to the purported illegal disruption of the Muskie campaign by Republican operatives while he "encouraged" Daniel Ellsberg to take the stolen Pentagon Papers to The New York Times.