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Dole-O'Brien 490

WASHINGTON AP. - Republican national chairman Robert Dole said Saturday that George McGovern's Democratic presidential campaign has links with Emprise Corp., a firm once described in congressional hearings as "very much like organized crime."

In a statement issued from GOP headquarters, Dole said he learned from an unnamed source that McGovern's national campaign chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, had met secretly in mid-September with Jeremy Jacobs, president of the Buffalo, N.Y., sports concession firm, and Jacobs' attorney.

Dole said that following that meeting, a congressional crime hearing at which Jacobs and his brother Max were to testify was called off.

O'Brien called Dole's accusations a "despicable lie."

Dole said the Jacobs brothers testified before the House Select Committee on Crime last June and were to testify again in September.

"But the hearings were mysteriously called off after Larry O'Brien's secret meeting with Jeremy Jacobs," Dole said.

"It should be of great interest to the American people to find out just how the Jacobs managed to get the crime hearings turned off just before the presidential election," Dole said.

Dole also charged that he had heard "unconfirmed reports of large amounts of cash flowing through Emprise and its subsidiaries into the McGovern campaign."

Spokesmen for the McGovern campaign committee said a preliminary check of their files showed no such contributions.

Dole called on McGovern to present a "full and complete explanation as to the links" between his campaign and Emprise.

"Bob Dole's allegation is a desperate and despicable lie,"

O'Brien said in a formal statement issued in response to Dole's.

"I had no secret meeting with Jeremy Jacobs. I solicited no funds for the McGovern campaign.

"This sleazy performance by Dole is just another desperate effort to hide the criminal actions that have been perpetrated by Nixon's hatchet men in behalf of Mr. Nixon and his campaign," O'Brien said.

Congress first looked into Emprise after Rep. Sam Steiger, R-Ariz., began a series of House speeches alleging ties between Emprise and organized crime.

At the hearings last June Steiger testified: "Not only does Emprise do business with organized crime, but they do business very much like organized crime. They intimidate, they bribe, they promote conflicts of interest."

Jeremy Jacobs at the time responded that Steiger's allegations were unfounded.

"We have been victimized by unsubstantiated charges of misconduct and unwarranted rumors of impropriety," Jacobs said. "I am not a gangster. I am not a criminal. I have never been engaged in criminal activities of any sort."

Emprise, whose estimated \$50 million annual gross sales come from its 450 businesses in 23 states, was fined \$10,000 last July for its part in a conspiracy to obtain hidden ownership interests in a Las Vegas, Nev., hotel-casino - the Frontier. Seven individuals also were convicted in the case.

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