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DOLE FILES COMPLAINT WITH F.E.C.
CHARGING NASHUA TELEGRAPH DEBATE 'UNFAIR'

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. -- Senator Bob Dole tonight announced that his campaign committee has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against Telegraph Publishing Company, Inc., publisher of the Nashua (N.H.) Telegraph, charging that a Telegraph-sponsored debate violates F.E.C. regulations.

Senator Dole, speaking in Portsmouth, N.H., said "This action is taken after repeated attempts to get the Telegraph to open up the debate format. It is the logical first item in attempts to get the paper to play fair with the Republican contenders."

The Dole for President Committee, in accordance with Sections 301, 309 and 316 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as last amended, has filed a complaint charging that the Telegraph Publishing Company is holding a restrictive and partisan debate.

Under existing F.E.C. regulations, expenditures for staging such a debate would be regarded as an illegal corporate campaign contribution.

In addition, proposed F.E.C. regulations hold that "expenditure for staging for such debates will be regarded as neither made for the purpose of influencing a federal election ... nor in connection with an election."

The proposed regulation also states that a debate "may not promote one candidate over another."

Senator Dole says he hopes the F.E.C. will act quickly on his committee's complaint.

He also said he expects other GOP Presidential candidates to join his effort to open up the debate to candidates other than Reagan and Bush.