



NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

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The following is a statement issued by Senator Bob Dole after the Friday morning release, by the Senate Watergate Committee of a portion of its final report.

"I am pleased that the Committee firmly established the Republican Party's good name and clean record in the 1972 campaign.

For at least the last 17 months, some liberal Democrats have been doing their best to smear the Republican Party and, by implication, all of those tens of thousands of dedicated and decent people who worked on behalf of it and its candidates during the last election.

I would be less than candid not to consider myself one of the prime targets of these smear tactics. The most partisan among liberal Kansas Democrat leaders have gleefully jumped on every pretext, no matter how unfair in efforts to tie me personally to campaign abuses which I deplored and condemned. Of course, most Kansans, Republicans, Democrats and Independents knew the truth in spite of the efforts by a group which always takes every opportunity to cast people and events in the worst possible light.

But the truth as brought out no less than three time in the Watergate Committee's Report has undercut the campaign of half-truth, innuendo and smear the liberal Kansas Democrat leaders are waging against me.

I would simply observe that Watergate by itself never was the issue. Integrity in Government and in politics was the real question. I think it still is today. And if the voters of Kansas think so too, I'll stand on my record while the liberal Democrat leaders in Kansas wallow in theirs."