

news from the republican national committee

310 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 484-6500

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CONTACT: MIKE BAROODY
(202/484-6665)

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DOLE DEMANDS MCGOVERN APOLOGY, ANTICIPATES MANKIEWICZ BLAST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The following statement was issued today by Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Republican National Committee:

Last night, George McGovern insulted and maligned a young voter in language that one national news wire service wouldn't even print. McGovernites have been directing this type of offensive outburst at Nixon supporters -- and even at the First Lady -- throughout the campaign. Now McGovern himself has joined in and his dismal conduct is totally unbecoming a candidate for the highest office in the land. It is neither "cute" nor "funny" and McGovern owes an apology to both the young man he insulted and to the American people whom he is depriving of their entitlement to a highminded campaign.

McGovern also established a first with this incident by not dispatching his lackey, Frank Mankiewicz, to try to pin the blame for yet another McGovern gaffe on some imagined elaborate theory of Republican conspiracy against him, a theory which to date has allowed McGovern to try to blame each of his frequent mistakes on the Republican party, the administration and even the President himself.

Anticipating the Mankiewicz charge, I would caution him that the American people are shocked at this abusive language from a presidential candidate just as they are shocked by the heckling which the Vice President, the First Lady and others have suffered at the hands of McGovernites.

I would hope that Mr. Mankiewicz would heed my caution before he calls a press conference to accuse some Republican of planting a pre-programmed tape recorder on Senator McGovern or of planting a ventriloquist at McGovern's side, or of some other equally absurd activity.