

news from the republican national committee

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*Fair Campaign
Practices
re Mc Govern*

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RNC-224

DOLE ASKS FAIR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CENSURE OF MCGOVERN

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- In a letter to the Fair Campaign Practices Committee today, Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Republican National Committee "lodged a formal complaint against Senator George McGovern. . . for a violation of the Code of the Fair Campaign Practices Committee."

Dole called upon Committee Chairman Charles P. Taft to launch a "full investigation" of McGovern's campaign rhetoric which "amounts to the worst character vilification I have heard in all my years of politics."

"The most egregious abuse of the Code by Senator McGovern," said Dole, "has been his persistent and wholly unwarranted comparison of President Nixon to the hated German dictator, Adolph Hitler."

Citing three different occasions since March of 1971 when McGovern had made the comparison, Dole called them "obvious and blatant violations of your Code. They represent the worst kind of character assassination and political slander . . . and bring into grave question the intention of Senator McGovern to wage a campaign on political issues instead of personalities."

(MORE)

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Dole urged Chairman Taft "immediately to investigate these violations . . . to make your findings public and that Senator McGovern be formally censured by the Committee. And I request you to use every power at your command to have an immediate halt brought to this use of despicable political rhetoric in a time when overheated language can only divide our nation."

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MB082872



Republican
National
Committee.

August 28, 1972

Bob Dole, Chairman

Mr. Charles P. Taft, Chairman
Fair Campaign Practices Committee, Inc.
328 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Taft:

Your comments reported yesterday in the press to the effect that "colorful language and a bit of exaggeration are a necessary part of a hard, hot campaign fight. But candidates don't have to lie about their opponents or to appeal to emotion instead of reason to win an election," make the following request all the more compelling.

I wish to lodge a formal complaint against Senator George McGovern (D-S. Dakota), Democratic Presidential candidate, for violation of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices Committee. As you know, Mr. McGovern has signed this code, and his violation of it, in my opinion, is cause for full investigation by your committee.

The Code proscribes "personal vilification" and "character defamation" among other things. On at least four different occasions, Senator McGovern has violated this Code with the use of language which amounts to the worst character vilification I have heard in all my years of politics.

The most egregious abuse of the Code by Senator McGovern has been his persistent and wholly unwarranted comparison of President Richard Nixon to the hated German dictator, Adolph Hitler.

A UPI report of March 1, 1971 records that: "Senator McGovern, D-S.D., says the U.S. bombing of Indochina 'is the most barbaric act that's been committed by any modern power since the death of Adolph Hitler.'"

In a June 29, 1972 interview with Mr. Gregg Herrington of the AP, Mr. McGovern said: "I've said many times that the Nixon bombing policy on Indochina is the most barbaric action that any country has committed since Hitler's effort to exterminate Jews in Germany in the 1930's."

As reported in the "Washington Evening Star and Daily News," August 16, 1972, Senator McGovern linked the President of the United States -- without the slightest scintilla of proof -- to an alleged break-in to Democratic Party headquarters and said: "Now this is the kind of thing that you expect under a person like Hitler."

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And finally, on April 16, 1972, the AP recorded that Senator McGovern said of Mr. Nixon: "He has descended to a new level of barbarism and foolhardiness for no other reason than to save his own face...."

On three occasions, therefore, Mr. McGovern has likened the President of the United States to the most pernicious dictator of the 20th century and on one occasion as much as called Mr. Nixon a barbarian. These instances, in my thinking, are obvious and blatant violations of your Code. They represent the worst kind of character assassination and political slander. They demean the political process and bring into grave question the intention of Senator McGovern to wage a campaign on political issues instead of personalities.

In short, Senator McGovern has launched a hate campaign which portends to be among the worst in American political history. I ask you immediately to investigate these violations of the Code fully and comprehensively. I urge you to make your findings public and that Senator McGovern be formally censured by the Committee. And I request you to use every power at your command to have an immediate halt brought to this use of despicable political rhetoric in a time when overheated language can only divide our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Dole", written in a cursive style.

Bob Dole
Chairman