Dole defends registration challenges

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Democrats and Republicans continued to spar Sunday over the involvement of Republican Henson Moore's Senate campaign in the ill-fated GOP effort to purge the state's voter rolls.

State Democratic Party officials produced documents that show a paid Moore campaign staffer provided information for use in the purge project and that a leader of the Ballot Integrity Group — which was spearheading the multistate effort to challenge voter registrations — met with Moore's campaign manager and other staffers.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, in town for a Moore fundraiser, said Sunday there is confusion and misunderstanding surrounding the Republican effort to have the rolls culled.

"People who are not living should not vote," Dole said at a brief airport press conference.

The issue — integrity of the voter rolls — is being clouded by those who are trying to damage Moore's campaign prior to the Nov. 4 general election, Dole said.

Meanwhile, Moore, who takes credit for getting the national Republican Party to call off the effort, said he is gathering information about any involvement his staffers may have had in the effort and will issue a report on his findings during a scheduled appearance Monday before the New Orleans Press Club.

"I have asked my campaign to gather information on who talked to whom," Moore said during the joint appearance with Dole.

Moore acknowledged that his campaign manager, Larry Kinlaw, met with an official of the Ballot Integrity Group. Moore said Kinlaw advised campaign officials that the national Republicans planned a ballot integrity project that involved challenging the listing of dead people and people giving incorrect addresses.

Democratic Party officials on Sunday pointed to campaign finance documents that show Mary Ann Lapeze, whom Moore previously identified as a volunteer worker in his campaign, has received $913.80 a month for at least the last eight months.

Other documents provided by the Democratic Party officials show Lapeze provided computer tapes and other documents to the Ballot Integrity Group prior to its attempt to challenge people listed on the voter rolls.

Moore said Sunday he erred in

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CONTINUED FROM 1A

identifying Lapeze as a volunteer.

"I misspoke myself," he said. "She is, in fact, one of the full-time people working in the campaign.

But, he added, any work she may have done for the voter integrity project was done as a volunteer.

Democratic candidate John Breaux and his supporters have made an issue of the Republican attempts to cull the voter registration rolls in Louisiana.

State Democratic Party chairman Jim Brady filed a lawsuit prior to the Sept. 27 primary that successfully halted the Republican effort.

Moore ran first with 44 percent and Breaux second with 37 percent of the vote in the primary. Twelve other candidates split the remainder of the vote.

Brady provided copies of vouchers submitted to the Republican National Committee that show the RNC paid Anderson $511.58 when he came to Baton Rouge for a "meeting with Larry Kinlaw on ballot security for Henson Moore Campaign — Baton Rouge, La. — 7-28-86 — 7-30-86." The RNC paid Anderson another $451.25 for an Aug. 5-6 meeting with "Lannie Griffith (of the RNC) and staff for Henson Moore" in New Orleans, the expense voucher filed by Anderson says.

The Democratic Party, in its suit filed in federal court in New Jersey, alleges the national Republicans' project to cull the voter rolls was designed to harass black voters.

"I would guess that this program (in Louisiana) will eliminate at least 60,000 to 80,000 folks from the rolls," Kris Wolfe, the Midwest regional director for the RNC, wrote Griffith.

"If it's a close race, which I'm assuming it is, this could keep the black vote down considerably," Dole said.

Dole said the memo doesn't reflect the party's philosophy.

"We're making efforts every day to attract more black voters to the Republican Party," Dole said.

The Senate majority leader said Democrats are attempting to obscure the "real issues in the campaign" which he identified as preservation of President Reagan's program by keeping the Senate in Republican control and thereby preventing Democrats like Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts from gaining committee chairmanships and continuation of full funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative.