

their filings to the state Board of Elections this week.

They said they spent \$32,400 on "repairs to plumbing" in May, with the money going to Roto-Rooter of Albany.

State Republican Committee Chairman Bill Powers was not immediately available to fill in the details, and no one else at GOP headquarters returned a phone call.

They may still be counting their campaign donations. They reported raising \$4.3 million in the first six months of 1996, about \$4 million more than their struggling counterparts at the state Democratic Committee.

Democrats open new HQ

The Dems may be down, but they are not giving up.

They announced last week that they are opening a new campaign headquarters in New York City to run the coordinated campaign between local and state races and the campaign to re-elect Bill Clinton.

"The coordinated campaign will be guided by campaign director Bill DeBlasio with assistance from political director Gerry Hudson,

field director Karen Persichilli, and deputy political director Katy Buckland," the party announced.

State cools off museum

When legislators were cutting up the pork last weekend, they didn't forget Sen. Michael Hoblock, R-Colonie, whose district has more Democrats than Republicans and who is facing an uphill race for a second term.

He got \$40 million for an Albany County Airport expansion project. He and another Albany-area Republican senator also got \$1.25 million to air condition the Albany Institute for History and Art, a 200-year-old museum that has amazingly managed to survive until now without air conditioning.

Having air means the museum can bring in traveling art exhibits that now bypass Albany because the building can't control its heat and humidity.

"The appropriation is so important to us," museum director Christine Miles told the *Schenectady Daily Gazette*. "It's incredibly generous. And we feel that the senators recognized the museum's significance to the state and region." □