

Strauss Details Break-In at His Home

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By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, June 21 — Robert S. Strauss, the Democratic National Chairman, has, for the first time, provided details about a mysterious burglary at his Dallas home two weeks after the Watergate arrests.

Mr. Strauss, who was the Democratic party treasurer at the time, said valuable jewelry, furs and silver were ignored by the burglars. They went through most of his papers instead, "looking for something," he said.

He stated that he did not connect the burglary with the Watergate events until recent months and now felt that "it might have been the same people who did the Watergate or people with the same motives."

His statements were part of a 111-page deposition taken May 29 and made public today. It is part of the Democrats' \$6.4-million damage suit against the Committee for the Re-election of the President and other supporters of Mr. Nixon and is based on the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972.

'Nothing Taken'

Mr. Strauss, questioned by Kenneth W. Parkinson, lawyer for the Republicans, said he was in Florida staging a fund-raising telethon when burglars broke into his home through the kitchen.

"My wife's jewelry tray with tens of thousands of dollars

worth of jewelry was torn out of the wall and placed on the floor," he stated.

"All our drawers were opened and papers gone through and nothing taken."

He added, "We wondered whether it were kids. We wondered whether it were people looking for dope and thought maybe they might find that there."

"It never occurred to me at that time that it might have been acts of the Republican party—and I don't know that they did [do it]."

"I just know it was strange that a \$20,000 bracelet was in the middle of the floor and not taken in a jewelry box. This was all such a bizarre, strange time and these proceedings were so strange."

Reported to F.B.I.

Mr. Strauss said that he kept no important papers at his home.

"All I know is that someone was looking for something because every drawer was opened, the papers were all riffled that were in the house."

He said the matter was reported to Dallas police and that he reported it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in March or April of this year.

His children, Mr. Strauss said, brought up the possible tie-in to Watergate when the scandal began to mushroom in March and April.

He said they "reminded me that it was probably the same crowd of representatives" involved in the Watergate affair. As to the break-in at the

Democratic headquarters, Mr. Strauss said special guards were never considered before the break-in, although they were hired afterward. He said he probably would have argued against hiring them in the first place because of the cost.

He described Lawrence F. O'Brien, party chairman at the time, as being very upset after the Watergate burglary.

"Mr. O'Brien, I think, was scared for his life . . . after all, he had been deeply involved with two assassinations and he was just nervous."

Argued About Security

He said that he and Mr. O'Brien argued about the extent of security, with Mr. Strauss wanting less because of the party's debts and the expense involved.

Asked by Mr. Parkinson about speculation that the Cuban Government might be sending money into the Democratic party, Mr. Strauss stated:

"I thought it was the most ridiculous suggestion that I believe I have ever heard."

He said the Watergate affair had helped in bringing campaign contributions to the Democrats but that the impact, as yet, had been small.

Mr. Strauss said that he might have met the father of Hugh W. Sloan Jr., who was treasurer for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Mr. Sloan's father is an official with the St. Regis Paper Company. Mr. Strauss is a lawyer for the company, he said.