

FORD AD

Strauss Assails G.O.P. on Ford Trips

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By CHRISTOPHER LYDON
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WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 — Robert S. Strauss, the Democratic National chairman, asserted today that the Republican party was risking "another national political scandal" in its heavy spending on President Ford's political travels.

The Republicans' \$309,000 outlay on Presidential trips so far this year, which the party reported yesterday, is a direct violation, Mr. Strauss declared, of the new \$5,000 limit that any committee can spend on a candidate's nomination.

"The Republican National Committee is such a committee, and President Ford is such a candidate," Mr. Strauss told a news conference at Democratic headquarters. "He is campaigning for his party's nomination almost every day. And if you don't want to take a Democratic chairman's word for it, ask Ronald Reagan."

The former California Governor is poised to challenge Mr. Ford within the Republican party.

Mary Louise Smith, the Republican National Committee's chairman, said yesterday that the party had budgeted \$500,000 this year for expenses Mr. Ford and Vice President Rockefeller would incur in their work as party leaders. Such spending has been traditional in both parties, Mrs. Smith said, and



Associated Press

Robert S. Strauss

The Republican argument that Mr. Ford has been traveling recently as a party leader, not as a candidate, mocks the law, Mr. Strauss said.

"Suppose I as chairman of the Democratic party should name one of our Presidential candidates, or four of them, or all of them, as party leaders, and sent them around the country at the Democratic National Committee's expense—without limit, and without allocating charges against their spending limits," he argued. "It would be an absurdity. And that is what we are being presented with by the Republican party, an absurdity."

the Republicans have asked the Federal Election Commission to rule that it is still legal.

Mr. Strauss, on the contrary, argued that the old custom was outlawed by the reforms that Congress wrote last year. The Democratic party is considering a formal presentation to that effect before the election commission next week, Mr. Strauss said.

But in the meantime Mr. Strauss was making Watergate references to underline his point. "We have seen what happens when the law is ignored," he said. "That's what made Gerald Ford President today."