

GOP Senators

Critical of Nixon

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee said today President Nixon had hurt his relations with GOP senators by not doing more to help them in the election campaign.

Sen. Peter H. Dominick of Colorado told a reporter he doesn't believe the White House yet realizes the extent of the damage to party unity.

He said his own colleague from Colorado, Sen. Gordon Allott, who was defeated for re-election, had made "some tough votes" in the Senate to support the President but didn't get much help in his campaign.

Dominick made clear he thinks that is the type of thing Republican senators are going to remember when they are called on in the future to line up behind Nixon's legislative proposals.

"I've had complaints from

all over the country that the President didn't campaign for himself or for party candidates enough," Dominick said.

A statement by Sen. Lowell Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) yesterday reflected a similar feeling. He said the Committee for the Re-election of the President had virtually ignored state and local candidates.

Weicker said such organizations should be abolished forever.

The White House has said that in his political appearances, Nixon did campaign for a number of Republican senatorial candidates.

Republican senators had hoped to score a net gain of at least two or three seats, but instead the Democrats increased their majority in the Senate by two in the Nov. 7 election.

As chairman of the Senate GOP campaign committee, Dominick said that "we won

four of the seven seats we took aim on." He said he thought that was pretty good and blamed the losses primarily on state issues.

But he said the Republicans also suffered losses they hadn't expected, like Allott's defeat and the failure of Jack Miller of Iowa and Margaret Chase Smith of Maine to win re-election.

Dominick said it would have been "extremely helpful" if Nixon had made campaign appearances with the GOP candidates even though he said he didn't think the President won a landslide victory because of personal popularity. He attributed Nixon's sweep more to an anti-McGovern vote.

But whether or not Nixon appearances would have been made a difference between victory and defeat, Dominick said, they would have been helpful to party unity and feeling.

"The President made a mistake from the point of view of party unity," he said.