

ST. PAUL, J. Robert Stassen, Republican state treasurer, blamed Watergate for the Minnesota Republican party's \$120,000 debt, saying the impact was less on contributors than on solicitors. In announcing the figure, he said: "They just didn't have the enthusiasm to go out and raise the dough. I think Watergate has had its effect, it is a cloud that hung over political activities all year long."

John B. Connally has been lined up as the speaker for the first and probably most important move toward meeting the 1974 budget—a fund raising dinner Feb. 16. Robert A. Forsythe, the dinner chairman, said Connally was a "consensus" choice of the state Republican leaders.

From staff reports and news dispatches