

GOP Wins a Seat In Congress Vote

EASTON (Md.) — (AP) — Robert E. Bauman says his victory in yesterday's special congressional election is "a repudiation of the Watergate means disaster for the Republicans syndrome."

Complete but unofficial returns from the sprawling 1st District showed Republican Bauman with 26,941 votes and Democrat Frederick C. Malkus with 25,581. Both men were state senators.

"If Watergate had been a big issue in a 2 to 1 Democratic district, I would have lost the election," Bauman said after his narrow victory. "I can only conclude that Watergate is not the issue nationally that some people think it is."

Rural District

The congressional election, in the conservative, largely rural district, was the first in the nation since the Watergate hearings got under way and since Vice President Spiro T. Agnew announced he was the subject of a grand jury investigation.

Agnew, a former governor

of Maryland, appeared with Bauman at a campaign barbecue last week, and the new congressman said he believes that appearance "went a long way toward helping me win."

"It helped simply because he's popular here," Bauman said. "I also found a lot of resentment in my campaigning about the investigation of the vice president."

Long Tradition

Bauman's victory continues a 10-year tradition of Republican representation from the 1st District, despite the Democratic voter registration edge, 140,000 to 65,000 Republicans.

The seat was taken away from the Democrats by Rogers C. B. Morton, now President Nixon's secretary of the interior.

He was succeeded by William O. Mills, who held the post until he shot himself to death May 24, one day after reports were published that his 1970 campaign had received an unreported \$25,000 contribution from the Committee to Re-elect the President.

