

**EARLY END IS HINTED
IN DEMOCRATIC SUIT**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (UPI)

The Democratic National Committee chairman Robert S. Strauss, indicated today that an out-of-court settlement may be imminent in the party's \$6-million Watergate suit against President Nixon's 1972 campaign committee.

"Both sides are making a

good faith effort to settle this as quickly as possible," Mr. Strauss said. "Negotiations are in process."

Asked about reports that the suit, filed originally by the previous national chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, would be settled for \$800,000, Mr. Strauss said, "We do not have a firm offer."

But, he said, the report "is not inaccurate enough to call it false."

The Democratic National Committee, the Association of Democratic State Chairmen and Spencer Oliver, director of the Association, brought the civil suit against the Committee for the Re-Election of the President and the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President following the break-in at the party's headquarters at the Watergate complex.

At least one offer, reportedly \$600,000, was turned down last year.