

Demos End Lease With Watergate

Washington

The Watergate, an expensive, riverfront apartment-hotel-office complex made famous by last June's alleged bugging attempt, is about to lose its most famous tenant—the Democratic National Committee.

The committee's seven-year lease expires at the end of this month and has not been renewed, deputy chairman Mary Lou Burg said yesterday.

She said party officials are looking for smaller, less auspicious quarters, although they will stay at the Watergate on a month-to-month basis if suitable space is not found by the end of the month.

The apartments and condominiums at the complex are in separate buildings from the committee offices and are generally considered among the most plush in the city.

Miss Burg said the office space is more moderately priced but "8000 square feet is probably more than we need . . . and some in the party thought the image was not particularly right for the Democratic party," Miss Burg said.

The Watergate also has become known as the dwelling place of several top Nixon administration officials, including former Attorney General John Mitchell and his wife, Martha, and outgo-

ing Secretary of Transportation John Volpe.

But the term "Watergate" became associated with political espionage after five men were arrested last June 17 inside the committee offices allegedly trying to bug or de-bug a telephone.

The Watergate bugging affair is not the reason the national committee wants to move out, Miss Burg said.

"That would have been a cause to stay. Watergate became a symbol of political intrigue, unprecedented in American history," she said. If anything, she said, the word Watergate is likely to conjure up anti-Republican emotion.

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