

Demos Make Hay --\$1 Million Dinner

Washington

Resurgent Democrats made political and economic capital of the Watergate issue last night at a \$500-a-plate dinner that was expected to raise more than \$1 million.

The successful fund-raising event, the first of its kind by Democrats since the Watergate disclosures of the past three months, was in sharp contrast to a Republican fund-raiser two weeks ago where President Nixon was the featured speaker.

The GOP's \$100-a-plate dinner grossed only \$750,000, half of what the Republicans raised two years ago at a similar dinner where President Nixon also was the featured speaker.

Two weeks ago, Republicans gave away batches of free tickets to insure a big crowd for President Nixon. Last night, Democrats used much of the dance floor space to accommodate an overflow crowd of contributors who came to hear such celebrities as folksinger Burl Ives and comedian Mil-

ton Berle.

Featured speaker at the dinner was Senator Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina, chairman of the party's senatorial campaign committee.

"The men who burglarized the Watergate and bugged their friends and enemies alike, who hired campaign spies and saboteurs by the platoon, were frightened men — afraid of people, afraid of operating in the open, afraid of the democratic system," Hollings said. "And their fear of open participatory politics led them right into the tragic folly of subversion symbolized by Watergate."

Democratic National Chairman Robert S. Strauss announced plans for another Democratic fund-raiser, this one a six-hour September telethon aimed at reducing the party's \$3.1 million debt.

A 20-hour telethon immediately before the Democratic national convention last July grossed \$4 million and netted \$2 million.

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