

GOP's New Charge on Nixon Funds

Washington

Republican National Chairman George Bush says the Nixon-Agnew campaign organization pleaded poverty after the 1968 elections when actually it had almost \$2.5 million salted away, forcing the GOP National Committee to bail it out.

Bush also revealed in an interview that the GOP National Committee donated a large amount of seed money to the Nixon campaign organization last year to help get the President's reelection effort rolling — only to find out later that a surplus of nearly \$1 million still was available from 1968.

The information, he said, shocked some Republicans who made their contributions after the 1968 cam-

paigned on the basis of the claimed deficit.

Bush said he is laying claim for the Republican National Committee to get any money that's left in the Committee for the Re-election of the President (CRP) from the 1972 campaigns after all bills are paid and lawsuits resulting from the Watergate break-in are settled.

"I want to be right up at the head of the line," Bush said. "We've picked up every deficit for a campaign in the past and if there happens to be any surplus left after the vultures have descended on that money, I'd like to have it."

Last year, Bush said, the national committee "paid into the CRP a substantial amount of money as a kind of donation to get it started.

"If they've got money left, we need the money," he said in an interview.

The existence of the surplus was confirmed in testimony July 17 before the Senate Watergate committee by Herbert Kalmbach,

United Press