

Demos Told To Face The Issues

Chicago

Democratic leaders, warning that Watergate alone won't win elections, urged the party yesterday to unite behind problem solving programs to demonstrate to the people that government can be made to work for them.

Obviously concerned about over-confidence after a string of victories in congressional special elections, national chairman Robert S. Strauss and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, told the Democratic governors conference that constructive performance must be the 1974 campaign theme to build for a return to the White House in 1976.

"Those who look toward Watergate and the personal misfortunes of Richard Nixon to propel a Democrat into the White House in 1976 are deceiving themselves," Humphrey told the 15 governors at the two-day meeting. "The people want action and performance and the truth about the serious nature of our problems."

Strauss also urged party unity behind "a program focused on gut issues" and advised both Republicans and Democrats to rely on "the constitutional response" of the impeachment process rather than to demand President Nixon's resignation.

"Let us remember what this President was and did when he perceived himself (to be) a hero," Strauss said. "I ask you, what horrors await us if he is able to characterize and portray himself as a resigned martyr?"

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