

# S.F. GOP Plots a Comeback

While Democrats were savoring their massive takeover of the state government last night, 37 Republicans crowded into a small meeting room at City Hall to begin their climb out of the political ruins.

The San Francisco Republican Central Committee elected Robert C. Kirkwood, a 35-year-old real estate attorney, to be its chairman for the next two years, succeeding J. Max Moore.

Kirkwood, a graduate of Harvard Law school, is president of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Renewal Association, usually called SPUR.

His late father served as general manager of public utilities in San Francisco, was a state controller and an assemblyman. His brother John, 27, was elected to BART's board of directors from San Francisco in November.

Two Pacific Telephone Co. marketing executives, Joan Irwin and Thomas Dolan, were elected first and second vice chairmen of the central committee.

Agnes Chan, a teacher at Francisco junior high school, was elected secretary, and Robert Elkus, an attorney, was elected treasurer. Elkus was the only candidate who faced opposition. He beat Frank Pagliaro, another attorney, 14 votes to 12.

"I don't expect to work

miracles," Kirkwood told the group, "and I certainly don't expect to do it alone. I hope we can give strong and rousing support to Jerry Ford in his race for the presidency."

Later, in an interview, Kirkwood said, "There's a tremendous problem of disappointment among Republicans. Quite a number of our staunchest workers feel badly let down.

"There were people who had been working hard who just said the hell with it after the August tapes came out" in connection with the Watergate investigation.

Kirkwood said he tended to discount the massive Democratic majority in San Francisco.

"Republican voters are highly flexible in San Francisco," he said. "They're candidate-oriented, and I think Democrats are, too.

"A hell of a lot of non-Republicans have voted for Republicans in the past. It took a lot of non-Republican votes to elect Milton Marks, for example, and I think he will get them again in his race for mayor."

Kirkwood said he hasn't heard of any other Republicans who are contemplating running for mayor.

"It's going to be fun. I think, building a phoenix," he said, referring to the legendary bird that arose from the ashes and is on the official city flag.