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HAWKINS TO CASH IN WITH RECORD FUND-RAISER

By Tom Fiedler, Herald Political Editor

A campaign kickoff dinner for U.S. Sen. Paula Hawkins, R- Fla., featuring President Reagan is expected to raise "in excess of \$750,000," making it the most successful fund-raiser in Florida political history, its organizer said Wednesday.

The dinner at the Omni Hotel in Miami Monday afternoon is being billed as a Presidential Gala. Tickets cost \$200, \$400 and \$1,000, depending upon how close you sit to the head table.

Brad O'Leary, a consultant to Hawkins' 1986 re-election campaign, said ticket sales indicate the event will be a sellout, with a majority of the 1,400 seats going for the \$1,000 price. Although an exact count isn't yet possible, he said preliminary reports show that the amount raised by Hawkins will rank her dinner as the fourth most successful ever held.

O'Leary, whose firm specializes in fund-raisers, said only dinners held to benefit former Sen. John Tower of Texas, former Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato of New York will rank ahead of Monday's event. Tower raised \$1.2 million for his final re-election campaign in 1978, O'Leary said, while Percy and D'Amato collected \$1 million each.

"This will clearly be the largest amount of money raised at a dinner for a woman in politics," he said.

When coupled with other fund-raising activities, O'Leary said Hawkins could collect as much as \$3.5 million before the end of this year.

"I would say the price of political poker in Florida is now going to be \$8 million or \$9 million," O'Leary said, looking to a 1986 race that may have Gov. Bob Graham taking on Hawkins.

In a related development, the dinner was moved up three hours to 4:15 p.m. to accommodate Reagan's visit, O'Leary said. The president will arrive in Miami after a stop at Epcot Center, near Orlando.