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VIP

Shutout Tarnishes Medal Presentation

By Maxine Cheshire

Although President Ford did not have an inaugural, he did have an official inaugural medal which has raised an estimated \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society.

But some of the men who made it possible don't think they were properly thanked.

The Ford administration's Presidential Inaugural Medal Committee, headed by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), had expected to go to the White House last week to present the chief executive with two gold medals bearing his likeness.

One medal, a quarter-inch in diameter, was intended for Mrs. Ford and retails for \$395. The other, two-and-a-half inches wide, was struck for President Ford alone and contains about \$2,000 worth of gold.

Its value, according to one of the country's leading experts on such matters, Cincinnati lawyer Richard

B. Dusterberg, would be "between \$15,000 and \$20,000" if it should ever find its way onto the numismatics market.

Dusterberg, author of a definitive book on "The Official Medals of the Presidents of the United States," has complained that he and eight other members of the committee were not invited to a medal-presentation ceremony in the Oval Office on Dec. 9.

Sen. Hatfield, as chairman, did attend with the two sculptors who designed the medal and the manufacturer, William Louth, of the Medallie Art Co. of New York.

Committee members didn't know about the presentation until after it had taken place, Dusterberg says. In a memo the next day, Sen. Hatfield notified them that "the scheduling staff at the White House has spe-

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Ford Presidential Inaugural Medal.