

Panel OKs Easing Political Gifts

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Washington — The Senate Rules Committee, meeting in secret session shortly before Congress recessed last week, voted to strip two key enforcement requirements from the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, congressional sources disclosed yesterday.

They said the modifying legislation would be sent to the Senate floor for consideration late this month. It is expected to provoke the first major floor fight over campaign financing since the Watergate scandal erupted.

As unanimously approved by the committee, the campaign finance bill would remove the requirement that a contributor must list his address and occupation. Instead, only his name would be required.

7/8/73

Another major modification would repeal Section 611 of the law, which prohibits any individual member of a corporation or labor union that holds a government contract from voluntarily making donations to a company-controlled fund for political contributions.

Backers of the proposed amendments contend that the present law is vague, complicated and unenforceable. Opponents of the amendments say the present provisions are needed to prevent corruption in campaign financing.

Information about the Senate committee's June 27 vote followed the voluntary announcement yesterday by American Airlines that it made an illegal contribution of \$55,000 last year to President Nixon's reelection campaign after being solicited by Herbert W. Kalmbach,

then Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

In Miami, Jonathan Rinehart, a senior vice president of Eastern Airlines, said that a similar request for political contributions was made in early 1972 to Floyd D. Hall, chairman of Eastern.

"No specific figure was mentioned," Rinehart said, "but it was clear we were being asked to make a contribution which was against the law. We gave them a direct, clear 'No'."

The Associated Press said Rinehart refused to identify the Republican official who approached Hall but said it was not Kalmbach.

Rinehart said the Nixon reelection committee asked Eastern to distribute campaign literature to its 32,000 employees soliciting donations for Mr. Nixon and the Democrats.

"We refused this suggestion also," Rinehart said. "Although we did send a letter to employees urging them to work for the candidates of their choice, pointing out that the safeguard of democracy is citizen participation."

Rinehart said Eastern gave its employees the addresses of both the campaign headquarters of Democrat Sen. George McGovern and Mr. Nixon.