

Nixon Asked to Push Campaign Fund Bill

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President Nixon was asked yesterday to counter some of the taint of Watergate by supporting a measure which would provide the

most sweeping reform of election campaign practices in history.

In a letter, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) asked Mr. Nixon to endorse a bill coming before the Senate this week which would ban general election for the presidency or Congress and provide tax dollars to fund those campaigns. The sponsors fear that Mr. Nixon will veto it.

"There are few steps that can better signify to the public our collective determination to reform our electoral processes and to restore faith in government than to enact a comprehensive system of public financing of federal elections," wrote Schweiker, part of a bipartisan coalition which claims the support of 51 senators.

The proposal, sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), is to be offered Wednesday as an amendment to a bill to raise the 465 billion ceiling on the national debt. Expiration of the existing ceiling Nov. 30 would hamper government financial operations and make the bill difficult to veto.

The debt ceiling bill has passed the House, so the fate of the reforms, if the Senate approves, would rest with a conference committee.