

Democrats Say Nixon

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic supporters of publicly financed presidential campaigns said Sunday President Nixon is responsible for the Senate filibuster against it.

Their charge came after they failed in an extraordinary Sunday session to break the impasse that has left the federal

debt \$63 billion above its legal limit.

Supporters of public financing fell seven votes short of mustering the two-thirds needed to invoke cloture and force action. They acknowledged they face an uphill battle in subsequent tries scheduled Monday and Tuesday.

The vote was 47 to 33 for cloture, one of three votes at the first scheduled Sunday session in 112 years.

The filibuster was created by the determination of Sen. James Allen, D-Ala., to take advantage of the Senate's unlimited debate rules to balk a vote on the bill that combines

an extension and increase of the debt ceiling with the campaign financing rider.

Allen said a provision providing public financing for presidential primaries is "a federal handout to some one score or more presidential hopefuls."

Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., charged that "The real

Is Supporting Filibuster

opponent to cloture and to cleaning up American politics is not Jim Allen but Richard Nixon."

He said Nixon wants the Senate "to disregard the lesson of Watergate" and kill the public financing measure without his having to veto it.

Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., floor manager of the bill, called on Nixon to publicly oppose Allen's filibuster, saying the Alabama Democrat couldn't succeed "if the man who sits in the White House did not want that kind of filibuster to succeed."

If Congress passes the bill, Nixon could still veto it, Long said, adding, "in my judgment, we won't have the votes to override the veto and would eventually have to yield."

He pledged that, in that event, Congress would promptly pass a bill limited to an extension and increase of the legal debt limit, which dropped to \$400 billion Friday night though the actual debt is about \$463 billion.

The Treasury Department has already suspended sales of government bonds, and Long said "an extremely serious sit-

uation" could result by mid-week unless some action on the debt limit is taken.

The measure would require 1976 presidential nominees to finance their campaigns from a fund to be created by a check-off plan, under which taxpayers can earmark \$1 of their income taxes for the campaign. It sets a \$21 million general election spending limit.

For primaries, it establishes a matching system whereby candidates who raise at least \$100,000 to start with could get up to \$7 million to match what they raise privately.

The Sunday session, first of its kind since March 3, 1861, attracted 81 senators, many attired in their Sunday best dark suits.

It lasted one hour and 58 minutes.

Supporters of the public financing plan repeatedly cited the need to clear up abuses spotlighted by the Watergate scandals. "If Watergate hasn't shown the need for it," Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said, "I don't know what the hell will."

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., chairman of the Water-

gate Committee and a foe of the financing proposal, said it "would bring on the scene 100 different candidates who would try to get money out of the federal coffers."

On the cloture vote, only seven Republicans joined 40 Democrats in voting to cut off debate. The opponents were 10 Democrats and 23 Republicans. Absentees would not have significantly changed the outcome.

Following the vote, the Senate refused by a vote of 45 to 36

to strip the campaign financing provisions from the debt ceiling bill, then adjourned on a roll-call vote of 77 to 0.

If the impasse is resolved this week, the Senate will turn its attention to the bill providing year-round Daylight Savings Time as an energy conservation measure.

If he is approved as expected, Ford will be sworn in to succeed Spiro T. Agnew at a joint session of the House and Senate Thursday afternoon.