

# Senate Kills Election Plan, Sets Debt Lid

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Under heavy White House pressure, the Senate yesterday killed a controversial public financing plan for presidential elections and sent President Nixon an unencumbered bill providing a \$475.7 billion federal debt ceiling through June 30.

The election plan was stripped from the debt bill by a 48-to-36 vote, after a new move to cut off the White House-backed filibuster against it failed by 10 votes. The first anti-filibuster move on Sunday failed by only 7 votes, so it was clear that the talkathon led by Sen. James B. Allen (D-Ala.) couldn't be broken.

As a compromise, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), both supporters of the campaign provision, and minority Whip Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), an opponent, obtained pledges from Rules Committee Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) to report out some form of legislation by middle or late February, one month after the next session of Congress convenes.

A rules subcommittee headed by Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) has already approved a bill similar in many respects to the provision killed yesterday. In the House, a similar measure is expected to reach the floor by mid-February also.

The Senate deal was sealed on a 48-to-36 vote, but Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) and other sponsors of the campaign provision voted "no" to signify their unhappiness.

Approval of the debt ceiling bill without amendments averted a financial crisis for the federal government. The \$465 billion debt limit expired at midnight Friday and re-

verted to \$400 billion. At that time, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell B. Long (D-La.) said yesterday, the nation's outstanding debt was \$64.98 billion above the \$400 billion limit.

Long said the Treasury had informed him it had enough cash on hand to honor \$4.5 billion in Social Security checks sent out a few days ago and \$1.25 billion in government payroll checks to be paid yesterday, but "it appears that . . . commencing on Thursday, the government will not be able to pay its debts falling due."

See CAMPAIGN, A9, Col. 1

## CAMPAIGN, From A1

This fiscal crisis was a key factor in eroding support for the campaign financing reform. Allen, Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz, who visited Capitol Hill yesterday, and White House lobbyists, argued the provisions shouldn't have been tacked onto the debt bill. Allen was jubilant after the final vote yesterday.

Although Allen initiated the filibuster on his own, the White House gave it strong backing and even provided an Air Force plane to fly the two Oklahoma Republican senators back from a quail hunt to vote Sunday against cutting off the filibuster.

The plane, seating eight to ten, was offered by the White House Senate liaison staff. Sen. Dewey Bartlett said he and Sen. Henry Bellmon were the only passengers.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) who, with Scott, was chief sponsor of the campaign measure, said, "We lost this battle but I'm confident we'll win the war." He said public funds for presidential campaign expenses were needed to "end the corrupting, corrosive power of private money in public life" and prevent politicians from becoming dependent on contributors who seek favors in return.

Scott and Kennedy plan to submit their bill to the Rules Committee later this week for its consideration along with the Pell bill.

Although not a sponsor of the measure, Long strongly backed the presidential provisions.

GOP senators said yesterday that the White House strongly backed Allen's filibuster, with heavy lobbying by the liaison staff and White House aides. One Republican said, "We want a clean bill. The filibuster is helping us get it. So be it."

The White House has said it wants further study before a campaign funding measure is passed. Some Republicans, however, said they feared that the Kennedy-Scott measure, by imposing a \$21 million limit on spending in presidential general election campaigns, might help Democrats more because Republicans usually are able to raise more money and the bill would keep them even. In addition, they said, treasury money for the presidential campaign would free big chunks of labor's presidential money to be given to Democratic congressional candidates.

Sunday's vote to cut off the filibuster was 47 to 33, seven short of the required two-thirds. Yesterday's majority was 49 to 39, 10 votes short. Allen then quickly moved to kill the financing provision and lost by only one vote, 43 to 42. This made clear that Kennedy and his allies could never break the filibuster. It was then that Mansfield and Scott decided to seek a compromise dropping the provision from the debt bill but pledging consideration next year.

In yesterday's 49-to-39 vote, both Maryland senators voted to invoke cloture while both Virginia senators voted to let the filibuster continue.

After the campaign provision was dropped, spokesmen for a coalition of organizations which backed the Kennedy-Scott proposal said they will continue to press for it.

"All this proves is we didn't have 67 votes for cloture," said a Common Cause lobbyist. "The issue is not dead—it will come to the floor in February and March. We have won that."

"The fight to get the influence of big money out of our political campaigns has just begun," said Philip M. Stern, president of the Center for Public Financing of Elections.

Ralph Nader said, "White House support for this filibuster was a desperate attempt to perpetuate the era of Maurice Stans and the corruption of politics by business money."