

Nixon's Campaign Reform Plan

Washington

President Nixon yesterday proposed a series of campaign reforms to require full disclosure of campaign spending and to shorten the length of presidential campaigns by several months.

He said that no state should hold a presidential primary or convention before May 1 and that national party conventions should not be held until September.

Some states have held primaries as early as March and conventions have been held in June, July or August. A shorter campaign would also reduce the cost of conducting a campaign, the President said.

He again urged serious consideration of a single presidential term of six years and a four-year term for members of the House.

The President's proposals would bar many of the "dirty tricks" and financial scandals that marred his own 1972 campaign.

The new proposals, many of which are contained in pending House or Senate bills, would require full disclosure of campaign contributions but would set no limit on total spending.

Strongly opposing Democratic proposals for a federal financing of congressional and presidential campaigns, Mr. Nixon said public financing would give incumbents an unfair advantage and would "sap the vitality of both national parties by

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placing them on a federal dole."

The President outlined his proposals in a message to Congress and in a radio address before departing for a weekend in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Democrats attacked the President's proposals, particularly his argument against public financing.

The President recommended that:

- No candidate be allowed to have more than one political committee, thus barring a proliferation of committees that are now used to circumvent campaign finance laws.

- No congressional candidate be allowed to accept more than \$3000 from an individual donor and that no presidential candidate be allowed to accept more than \$15,000 from a single donor.

- "In kind" contributions in the form of paid cam-

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campaign workers, printing supplies and airplanes be prohibited unless fully accounted for and are within the \$3000 or \$15,000 ceiling.

- All donations of more than \$50 be made by check or other negotiable instrument.

- All campaign expenditures of more than \$50 be by check and be made only from a candidate's campaign account, to be held in a single bank.

- All political loans be barred, stock donations prohibited and contributions from foreigners outlawed.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) charged that the President's message was "grossly misleading and distorted in its opposition to public financing."

Kennedy said that the President was trying to "ob-

struct or even kill the most effective response Congress has yet made to Watergate."

Kennedy described as "fatuous" the President's contention that public financing would mean taxation without representation.

After the leadership meeting at the White House, Senate minority leader Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.) also said he did not agree with the President on the public financing issue.

The President also urged repeal of the "equal time" provision that requires radio and television stations to give the same amount of time to all candidates instead of only to major party candidates.

Repeal of the "equal time" provisions would cut campaign costs by allowing the electronic media to provide free campaign coverage to major candidates, Mr. Nixon said.

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