

Campaign Reform Bill OK'd in House

Washington

A broad campaign financing reform bill, spawned by the excesses of the 1972

presidential election, was approved by the House yesterday almost by acclamation.

The bill, which cleared less than two hours before President Nixon's broadcast statement of resignation, would set limits on political contributions, restrict candidate spending, provide federal subsidies for presidential conventions, elections and primaries, and establish a new board to enforce the new campaign rules.

The vote was 355 to 48.

Representative John Brademas (Dem-Ind.), a principal proponent of the bill, called on the House to take advantage of recent events and prevent the recurrence of "the most spectacular lawlessness and corruption in the last 200 years of this country."

The bill now goes to a conference committee to reconcile differences with a Senate-passed bill.

Its provisions were intended to end such Watergate-related practices as large, secret cash contributions and the use of multiple campaign committees which allow large contributions to escape notice because they are divided into small chunks.

Presidential candidates would be limited to \$10 million total expenditures for a primary and \$20 million in a general election. The entire \$20 million for general election expenditures would come from a fund financed by the \$1 tax checkoff on federal income tax returns.

The checkoff fund also would be used to provide matching funds of private contributions to primary candidates up to \$250 per contribution.

National party conventions would get \$2 million each from the fund, and would be prohibited from spending more than that.

Candidates would be required to establish one principal campaign committee which would have to report all the candidate's expenditures.

A six-man independent board would be established to enforce the new law and establish rules and regulations for campaigns, although either house of Congress could veto new rules.