

NIXON UNIT TOLD TO REVEAL FUNDS

Judge Acts on '72 Campaign Suit by Common Cause

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WASHINGTON, July 24—A post-Watergate move for reform in the financing of election to public office, including some sweeping proposals to pay part of Presidential and Congressional candidates' campaign costs with public funds, opened today in the Senate.

Previewing a week or more of Senate debate on a number of amendments to the 18-month-old Federal Election Campaign Act, which will begin tomorrow, Senators Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, and Richard S. Schweiker, a Pennsylvania Republican, introduced a bill today that would provide matching Federal funds the

of up to \$29-million for a candidate for President. Such money would presumably be free of the quid-pro-quo taint associated with gifts from large private contributors.

Under the Mondale-Schweiker plan, endorsed by Common Cause, the public-interest lobbying group, Presidential candidates of each major party would be free to raise additional private contributions for a statutory grand total of \$45-million, or barely less than the record \$50-to-55 million spent by President Nixon last year. But no individual donor's gift could exceed \$4,000, and cash contributions larger than \$100 would be prohibited.

Small Gifts Sought

Only contributions of \$100 or less would be eligible for equal Federal matching—an effort to stimulate many small gifts and to reduce the influence of wealthy special-interest donors.

In 1972, the Nixon campaign received at least two contributions from individuals of \$1-million and scores of others in the \$100,000 and up range.

Because of loopholes in the public disclosure requirements of the campaign finance law, many of Mr. Nixon's largest gifts—including two now known to have come illegally from corporate funds—were concealed until various lawsuits forced them into the open.

Schweiker, Mondale and Presidential campaign finance plan at a joint news conference in the Capitol with John W. Gardner, Common Cause chairman clearly hoped to take advantage of public reaction to the 1972 excesses to promote their bill.

Evil Effects Cited

Senator Mondale, mentioned as a possible contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1976, spoke of "the profound, smelly, stinking corruption of money in politics."

The country must stop "putting our candidates up for sale to the highest bidders," he said. "We must do it now while details of the Watergate are clear in everyone's mind. Money in

the politics is no longer just bad, it is rotten. It is corrupting and compromising American government—taking it from the people and giving it to those who are corrupt and cynical enough to buy America."

Senator Schweiker said that the bill would "insure that a future Watergate will not happen."

Although the Senators' Presidential reform bill held the attention of campaign finance reformers today, it will not figure directly in the floor debate to come in the next few days. The Mondale-Schweiker bill includes a number of complex provisions affecting Federal tax laws, and it was referred to the Senate Finance Committee this afternoon for hearings and an uncertain re-emergence on the floor in the fall.

The most vigorous debate now a forecast, perhaps, of prospects for any program of publicly financed campaign aid is expected on a direct amendment proposed yesterday, without referral to a committee, for new Federal campaign finance federal payments to presidential as well as Senate and Committee on Rules and Ad-

House candidates in general elections. However, this proposal would exclude the cost of primary and prenomination races which are covered in the Mondale-Schweiker plan.

Scott and Kennedy Off

This proposal, offered by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican floor leader, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, would prohibit any private fund-raising by major-party candidates. Minor-party candidates, entitled to smaller public campaign aid, could seek private funds up to the level of the major-party candidates' specified spending ceiling. This plan was subject to the criticism that it might further enhance the already favorable campaign finance position of incumbents.

The Senate is opening debate tomorrow on the Scott-Kennedy amendment and a host of others in the recess of consideration of a relatively modest list of post-Watergate changes to the new Federal campaign finance law put forward by the Senate and Committee on Rules and Ad-

ministration. That panel, headed by Senator Howard W. Cannon, Democrat of Nevada, has not been noted for reformist deal.

One of the Rules Committee changes, for example, would delete an important disclosure requirement in the new law that donors giving more than \$100 must be identified in published reports not only by name but also by occupation and principal place of business.

Some candidates making mandatory financial reports under the new law have complained that this provision is onerous. But to users of the public files of campaign donors the requirement has served to disclose the private interests of large contributors—a basic reason for the entire public disclosure requirement.