

Campaign

Contribution

Limits OKd

Washington

The Senate voted yesterday to limit individual campaign contributions to presidential or congressional candidates to \$3000 in each election.

The tentative action to limit the influence of the rich on government marked something of a post-Watergate high-water mark of reform intentions.

The vote on the amendment by Senator Lloyd M. Bentson (Dem-Tex.) was 54 to 39. It faces further Senate tests and an uncertain reception in the House of Representatives.

California's Democratic Senators Alan Cranston and John Tunney both supported the \$3000 limitation.

Loopholes were left in the measure that would still allow gifts of up to 100,000 from individuals to the national parties — but not, in theory, for individual candidates.

A proposal to have the federal Treasury bear the cost of presidential and Senate and House campaigns in general elections — but not the cost of pre-nomination and primary campaigns — was

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defeated by a vote of 53 to 40. Its bi-partisan sponsors were Republican floor leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, the \$3000 donor limit adopted by the Senate was described during the debate as a "more realistic" figure than a \$100-a-contributor ceiling suggested in an amendment of Senator William Proxmire (Dem-Wisc.) which was defeated.

EFFECT

The effect of the \$3000 ceiling, however, would be less than total, assuming it survives further congressional consideration and a possible veto by the President.

For example, under the Bentson amendment, individuals could not give any single candidate for any federal office more than \$3000 for any given election campaign. But donors could still contribute up to a total of \$100,000 to a national party committee supporting both presidential and congressional candidates.

A single-candidate committee such as the Republicans' Committee for the Re-Election of the President could not receive funds under the Bentson system, not being a "party committee"

CAMPAIGN LIMITS

The Cook amendment passed on a voice vote, without audible opposition.

New York Times



LLOYD BENTSEN
Amendment's author

der the Bentson system, not under the definition of his amendment.

But as if to underline the disenchantment of Senate Republicans, as well as Democrats, with what many on Capitol Hill call "the CREP experience" of 1972, another amendment was offered yesterday by Senator Marlow W. Cook (Rep-Ky.). It would forbid any expenditure of more than \$1000 for the election of the presidential candidate of either party without the prior approval in writing of the party's national chairman.