

No Nixon Position On Election Bill

Washington

The Nixon administration refused yesterday to take a stand on public financing of election campaigns.

The administration also told a Senate Rules subcommittee that it has "no final position" on a Senate-passed bill to put ceilings on contributions and expenditures, create an independent elections commission with enforcement power and make other reforms in private financing.

Subcommittee chairman Claiborne Pell (Dem-R.I.), derided the "pussy-foot" testimony of Assistant Attorney General Robert G. Dixon Jr., and the 'non-specific nature of your non-position view.'

Rules Committee chairman Howard W. Cannon (Dem-Nev.), was even harsher, after determining that Dixon had cleared his

testimony with the White House and was "trying" to speak for it as well as the Justice Department.

The Watergate scandals, Cannon said, revealed "tremendous corruption in politics," "abuses of power and money," and a "very bad and very dishonorable disputation."

Consequently, the senator said, it is "very strange" that the White House and the department cannot take a clear stand in favor of limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.

"We are taking this matter seriously," Dixon insisted. He said a surprise administration proposal for a "conduit" commission to receive all contributions made on behalf of all federal candidates would cope with one major problem, "the secret holding of large sums of money by committees and individuals."

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