

NOV 26 1973

Senate Push For Election Finance Bill

SFChronicle
Washington

A bipartisan group of senators plans to make a push this week for a broad plan of government financing of presidential and congressional elections.

They contend that the revelations in Watergate scandals and in former Vice President Spiro Agnew's tax case make it clear that the present system based on large private contributions must go.

The senators plan to use a "must" bill — an increase in the national debt limit — as the vehicle for their campaign-financing amendment.

The issue tentatively is scheduled for Senate consideration Wednesday.

Principal sponsors of the amendment are Republican Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.).

Backers estimate that, if the amendment is passed, the cost would be \$200 million in federal funds each presidential election year and \$100 million in congressional election years.

The funds for these payments would come from an expansion and revision of the system of income tax checkoff in the 1971 law.

Under this system, a taxpayer can designate that \$1 of his payment — or \$2 per couple — be used for presidential campaign financing.

The new plan would change the designation to \$2 for an individual, \$4 for a couple.

Associated Press