

President to Propose Campaign Reforms

By Helen Thomas

United Press International

President Nixon will propose campaign financing reforms Friday that would limit individual political contributions, shorten campaigns, prohibit "dirty tricks" and keep campaign support in private hands, a high-ranking White House official said yesterday.

This official said the reform proposals Mr. Nixon will send Congress accent "full disclosure" in campaign financing and reflect Mr. Nixon's belief that government should be kept out of the financing field.

He said the President's message will take "sharp exception to bills providing for public financing of campaigns because they would put a political party on the dole." He estimated they would cost \$300 million to \$400 million per campaign.

There would be no ceiling on campaign spending by any candidate. And if Congress goes along, political arms of organized labor, such as the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education, would be forbidden to make political contributions, as corporations and unions themselves are now.

In a separate discussion with reporters, deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon's reform proposals were prompted by "the intense public focus on the campaign abuses of 1972."

The official who disclosed details of Mr. Nixon's plan said the President considered it the sort of "totally pragmatic, rational, sensible measure" the country needs.

Under the plan, he said, no presidential candidate could accept more than \$15,000 in campaign contributions from any one individual. The limit for a congressional candidate would be \$3,000 per individual.

Only individuals and the organizations of the national political parties would be allowed to make campaign contributions. Although organizations such as the AFL-CIO's COPE could not contribute, their individual members could.

There would be no limit on the total amounts campaign committees could accept—or spend—because Mr. Nixon believes there is no way to do that fairly, the official said.

All contributions above \$50 would have to be made by check, and all funds would have to flow to one campaign committee designated by each candidate for deposit in one federally authorized bank.

Other provisions of Mr. Nixon's package would:

- Bar such campaign "dirty tricks" as paying demonstrators to disrupt rallies and misrepresenting an opposing candidate's record.

- Prohibit any presidential primary before May 1 and ask political parties not to hold their national conventions before September, to shorten campaign time.

- Repeal the equal broadcast time amendment because Mr. Nixon believes it reduces the willingness of the networks to provide broadcast time to any candidate.