

Pastore Scores Nixon Vote Reforms

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, said today that the most serious defect in President Nixon's campaign reform proposals was his opposition to public financing.

"Public funds for the public campaigns of public officials make good sense if we want to end political payola," Senator Pastore said.

He called the Watergate scandals "conclusive proof that the present system of private financing breeds corruption."

Senator Pastore was on all major radio networks as the spokesman for the Democratic Congress in reply to the proposals that Mr. Nixon advanced a week ago in his message to Congress and on a nationwide broadcast.

"Let us not be misled by those who claim that public financing is taxation without representation and a raid on the Federal Treasury," Mr. Pastore said. "Taxation without representation is precisely

what you have when you have corruption."

He took exception to Mr. Nixon's recommendation that individuals be permitted to contribute up to \$15,000 to the campaigns of Presidential candidates.

"How many Americans are capable of making a contribution of \$15,000?" Senator Pastore asked. "Surely any such contribution is suspect of some personal vested interest."

Bill Passed by Senate

He noted that the Senate passed a bill last year limiting individual contributions to \$3,000. It also put a ceiling on campaign expenditures. However, the House has taken no action on the bill.

Its provisions have been incorporated into another bill, soon to be brought up in the Senate, that also would set up public financing of both general election and primary campaigns of Presidential and Congressional campaigns.

Senator James B. Allen, Democrat of Alabama, is

threatening to lead a filibuster against the legislation.

Senator Pastore, who devoted most of his address to public financing, said the idea was "first proposed in America by one of the nation's greatest Republican Presidents — Theodore Roosevelt."

"He called for public financing nearly 70 years ago in response to the notorious corruption in campaign financing that prevailed in American politics at the turn of the century — and the scandal at that time was child's play compared to the scandals in the 1972 elections," Mr. Pastore said.

He said Congress had already provided for public financing of Presidential campaigns by passing legislation under which taxpayers can check off \$1 of their income tax for this purpose. He urged taxpayers to make use of the dollar checkoff.

"It will not add to your tax nor will it take away from any refund to which you are entitled," he emphasized.