

1-2-75 NYS

# Major Campaign Reforms Take Effect

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (UPI) — The most sweeping political campaign reforms in the nation's history took effect today.

The changes, a direct result of Watergate, are considered certain to revolutionize campaigns for Federal office.

The law already faces a court challenge, and revisions may be attempted by the 94th Congress.

Senator James L. Buckley, Conservative - Republican of New York, and former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, have joined in a suit challenging parts of the law on constitutional grounds contending that insufficient provisions were made for minority parties.

Some members of Congress want to broaden the law by providing taxpayers' financing of Congressional elections and repealing the "equal time" provision that forces broadcasters to give time to all candidates for an office if they give it to one.

### Limit on Contributions

The law, which President Ford signed with reservations, provides for public financing of Presidential elections, primaries and national conventions; a limit on political contributions, and ceilings on candidate spending.

The law creates a six-member

Federal Elections Commission, with civil enforcement powers. Many believe the success of the reforms will depend on how zealously the commission enforces them.

The initial impact of the law will fall on candidates for the 1976 Presidential nominations.

Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia and Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona already have announced their candidacies.

Other Democrats — notably Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington and Lloyd K. Bentsen of Texas — have begun well-financed exploratory operations.

Whatever money they spent before midnight is not affected by the law. But any money spent from now on — even though donated before Jan. 1 — will be subject to the spending ceiling.

A similar rule will apply to Senate and House incumbents with campaign funds left over from previous years.

Any Democrat or Republican who decides to enter the primaries can become eligible for taxpayer financing.

To qualify for the financing, the candidate must raise \$100,000 — with \$5,000 each from 20 states in contributions of \$250 or less. The Government will match that \$100,000 plus every additional contribution of \$250,000 or less up to a total of \$5-million. Primary

candidates cannot spend more than \$10-million for the nomination.

The winners of the Democratic and Republican Presidential nominations can get \$20-million for the general election from the Government or can choose to use only private contributions. In either case, a Presidential nominee can spend no more than \$20-million.

### Reports Required

In addition, the law provides \$2-million for each major party convention.

Beginning today, individuals are limited to overall contributions of \$25,000 in a single year and no more than \$3,000 to an individual candidate — \$1,000 each in the primaries, a runoff, and the general election. Organizations are limited to contributions of \$5,000 in each of three possible races for one candidate.

The law limits spending by Senate and House candidates, bans cash contributions over \$100 and requires reports on contributions and expenditures.

### County Name Is a 'Natural'

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Boone County, Arkansas, got its name from a proposal, which said: "It would be a 'boon' to create the county for the convenience of the people."