

House Passes Bill for Revised Election Panel

Washington

The House approved legislation yesterday that would restructure the Federal Election Commission along constitutional lines, make major changes in election laws and resume payment of federal campaign subsidies to presidential candidates.

Approved 241 to 155, the bill differs substantially from legislation passed by the Senate last week. Chief differences involve control of union and corporate political fund-raising — and the degree of congressional control over a presidentially appointed commission.

The opposing floor managers of the House bill, Wayne L. Hays (Dem-Ohio) and Bill Frenzel (Rep-Minn.), seemed optimistic that differences could be worked out soon and that President Ford would sign the final product, despite a threatened veto.

Mr. Ford favors a simple reconstitution of the election commission, saying major changes in election laws should not be made during election campaigns.

Presidential candidates have not received any federal funds since the commission lost its disbursing power March 22. Congress failed to meet a Supreme Court deadline to reconstitute the commission's membership by then. The court ruled January 30 that having four of the commission's six mem-

U.S. Envoy to Peking OK'd

Washington

The Senate confirmed yesterday the nomination of Thomas S. Gates Jr., a Wall Street banker and former defense secretary, to be the third U.S. representative to China.

Gates is chairman of the executive committee of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. and has been a top Morgan official since 1961.

He served as secretary of defense from 1959 to 1960 and previously was secretary of the Navy.

Associated Press

Members appointed by Congress was in violation of the separation of powers doctrine. All members had to be appointed by the Executive the court said.

House Republicans failed yesterday in an effort to have the 58-page Democratic bill replaced with a three-page bill that would simply reconstitute the commission.

In working on the bill yesterday, the House refused by a surprisingly large margin to add an amendment that would have extended federal campaign-subsidingly large margin to add an amendment that would have extended

federal campaign subsidies to Senate and House races in 1978.

The proposal by Phillip Burton (Dem-Calif.), which had a House majority of 224 cosponsors when it as introduced as a bill last year, was defeated, 274 to 121. Some blamed defeat on premature consideration.

The major differences between the House and Senate bills are in three areas:

1—"The House version would subject to congressional veto all major interpretations of the election law made by the Federal Election Commission. Democrats complain that the commission has improperly bypassed congress with several rulings most notably one that allowed corporations to solicit political contributions from all stockholders and employees, including union members.

Republicans charge that the huge Democratic majority simply wants a weak "incumbent protection agency." Senate Republicans got Democrats to knock out the House restrictions.

2—"The House Bill would let corporations that have political donation committees solicit money only from stockholders and top echelon executives. Unions could solicit only from members, leaving a large group of white collar "untouchables" — nonsupervisory, nonunion employees—who could

not be solicited by either side.

Senate Republicans forced through a compromise that would allow corporations to receive donations from "untouchables" if the gift was anonymous — to prevent coercion.

3—"The Senate bill contains an amendment by Senator Robert Packwood (Rep-Ore.) that would require unions for the first time to report the hundreds of thousands of dollars they spend promoting candidates in literature sent to their members. The House rejected a similar amendment that would also have required the reporting of union dues spent for registration and get-out-the"vote drives.

Washington Post