

REAGAN GROUP HOPES TO RAISE \$20 MILLION

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WASHINGTON (AP)—A committee was formed Thursday to raise and spend \$20 million to \$30 million on behalf of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in addition to the nearly \$30 million the government will provide to finance the campaign of the Republican Party standardbearer.

Sen. Harrison H. Schmitt (R-N.M.) announced formation of the fund and said he would serve as chairman. The senator defended its existence as fully legal and in compliance with the federal election law.

That law provides public funding of about \$29.4 million for the campaigns of the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates—once they have been nominated—and prohibits them from raising or spending any other money.

But Schmitt said that Americans individually cannot be barred from spending their own money on behalf of candidates and that Americans for Change, the new organization, was created for that purpose.

"This is a legal committee," he told a news conference. "I would not be part of anything that would attempt to skirt any law."

Officials said pledges of \$150,000 had been raised in the last 24 hours as word of the committee's creation spread across the country.

Committee officials said the law permits any individual to contribute \$5,000 to the committee and a total of \$25,000 in an election year to all such committees.

The committee must have no ties

with the candidates it supports, and Schmitt said the founders had been careful to avoid contact with Reagan or his staff.

Schmitt said he based his estimate that the committee could raise \$20 million to \$30 million on how much had been raised by candidates for the Republican nomination during the primary season.

Among the committee's officers are John Harmer, who served as Reagan's lieutenant governor in California; Brad O'Leary, former executive director of the Republican Party in Texas, who has raised more than \$20 million for political races in the last two years; former Sen. Carl T. Curtis (R-Neb); Stan Huckaby, former Baker for President Committee treasurer, and Jan Baran, legal consultant.