

Nixon Vows 'Total War' Against Crime

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon promised yesterday "a total war against organized crime" and a new campaign against terrorist bombings in this country.

The President declared that the government "will win" the war against organized crime and that it "will not tolerate" a continuance of bombings.

The "full force" of the federal government will be brought against those who engage in bombing activities, Mr. Nixon said in signing an omnibus bill giving the government controversial new powers to fight organized crime and terrorist bombings.

Mr. Nixon drove to the Justice Department to sign the bill in the presence of Justice and Treasury Department officials and members of both parties of Congress.

With FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover standing beside him, Mr. Nixon praised the agency for apprehending Angela Davis, a black revolutionary arrested in New York this week in connection with murder and kidnaping charges.

The action of the FBI in finding Miss Davis, the President said, "should be warning to those who engage in these acts that they eventually are going to be apprehended."

The new legislation means that "we are going to give the tools to the men in the Justice Department and to the men in the FBI and we shall see to it that those who engage in such terroristic acts (as bombings) are brought to justice."

He commended Democratic and Republican legislators who supported the measure, which he first recommended to Congress nearly 18 months

ago. Some members claimed that it contained unconstitutional and repressive features. However, the bill finally passed the House last week by a vote of 341 to 26, and the Senate on Monday accepted the House version and sent the measure to the President.

The measure provides for stiff sentences for those who use profits from organized crime to acquire or establish legitimate businesses in interstate commerce. It makes it a crime to acquire or establish local or state gambling laws and establishes a national commission to determine if the Organized Crime Act or any other laws infringe on individual rights.

The bill authorizes the death penalty for persons convicted of fatal bombings and arson. Various civil liberties groups denounced that provision as an unnecessary extension of FBI power.

Before signing the measure, the President told the group at the Justice Department that there have been "over 400 arrests in the racketeering field" since the Attorney General has begun authorizing wiretaps in the fight against organized crime.

Referring to recent bombings in California, Rochester, N.Y., and Cambridge, Mass., the President said, "It seems that every day we pick up the papers we see some sporadic incident without reason, without cause, simply terroristic activity which we have not been able to cope with adequately in the past."

"What this legislation does is to provide that where there is a federal interest, federal support for an installation, then the federal law enforcement officials will move in."

ago. The section authorizing the FBI to investigate campus bombings was added to the bill on the President's recommendation last summer.

The bill passed the Senate in January by a vote of 73 to 1, but it was held up for many months in the House Judiciary

Whenever an institution that receives any form of federal assistance is bombed, the FBI is now authorized to move in to investigate at once.