

Nixon Asks Death For Fatal Bombings

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon yesterday asked Congress to stiffen federal laws dealing with bombings and bomb threats and to provide the death penalty if a fatality occurs.

A week ago, Mr. Nixon told congressional leaders that he would ask for new laws to deal with the rash of bombings across the country.

In a statement yesterday, he said that many of the recent bombings "have been the work of political fanatics, many of them young criminals posturing as romantic revolutionaries.

"They must be dealt with as the potential murderers they are," he said.

"Recent months have brought an alarming increase in the number of criminal bombings in the cities of our country," Mr. Nixon said.

"In recent weeks, the situation has become particularly acute, as telephoned threats and actual bombings have sent fear through many American communities."

The President said that his proposals were not designed to displace state and local authority.

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"Our purpose is to assist state and local governments in their efforts to combat the multiplying number of acts of urban terror," he said. He said the federal government would act only after a finding by the Attorney General that such action was in the public interest.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler reported that in fiscal year 1969 there were 46 bomb threats against federal buildings supervised by the General Services Administration. So far in fiscal 1970, he said, there have been 164 threats.

In fiscal 1969, arson and bombing incidents against federal buildings totaled 13 compared with 14 so far in fiscal 1970, Ziegler said.

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said there was no evidence of any "conscious, precise or clear conspiracy" in the recent bombings but he said it is possible to pick up a piece of paper on almost any college campus giving instructions on how to make a bomb.

Nixon Proposals

The President urged Congress to strengthen present federal laws in these ways:

- Impose a penalty of 10 years in prison or a fine of \$10,000 on anyone involved in the transport of explosives for unlawful use. The present penalty is one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

- Double the penalty if anyone is injured as the result of such transport of explosives and provide the death penalty

if there is a fatality.

- Raise penalties for bomb threats from one year in prison to a maximum of five years or \$5,000 or both.

- Include incendiary devices in the category of explosives.

- Make it a federal crime to use explosives against a federal building or vehicle and make possession of any explosive in such a building a federal crime.

- Make it a federal offense to use explosives to damage any building used for business purposes by any person or firm engaged in interstate commerce.

- Make it a crime to possess explosives with the intent to damage either federal property or property used in a business involving interstate commerce.

Several members of Con

gress have introduced bills with proposals similar to the President's. Kleindienst predicted that Congress would act promptly to bring out a bill.

But there are a number of different approaches to the problem, including a proposal by Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D-Ohio) that would require registration of businesses manufacturing, distributing and selling explosives.

Vanik said that the President's proposals regarding transportation of explosives represented "a step in the right direction."

However, he said that bomb violence must be checked at

the source of supply to be effective.

"We need legislation to prevent the violent deed before it occurs," he said.

Vanik's proposal would be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee because it involves using taxing power, while most of the other plans, including the President's, would require Judiciary Committee action.

Rep. William E. Minshall (R-Ohio) has introduced a bill to restrict the distribution and sale of blasting materials and Rep. Don Brotzman (R-Colo.) has introduced a bill to increase by tenfold the penalties for interstate shipment of explosives.