

Warner Is Named To Head '76 Agency

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KEY BISCAYNE, Fla.,

March 10 — President Nixon today nominated Secretary of the Navy John W. Warner to direct the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and called for a celebration of "The Spirit that Built America."

In a radio address on the 1976 anniversary from the study of his Key Biscayne villa, the President said:

"We can build a future in which, a hundred years from now, another anniversary can look back with pride on a time when our generation ensured for them a world at peace, a nation healthy and free, and a national heritage which will be a sound foundation for even greater progress in the future."

Mr. Nixon said he had ordered Warner — Navy Secretary since May, 1972 — to prepare a summary and projection of all public and private planning for the bicentennial to be presented at an early cabinet meeting.

"Because the bicentennial belongs to the entire nation, it must be a completely nonpartisan effort," the President said. "In the appointments I shall be making to the Bicentennial Advisory Council and the board of directors, I will insist on this principle, and I know that everyone involved will share this nonpartisan spirit."

The new American Revolution Bicentennial Administration was created by Congress and signed into law last December to succeed the trouble-plagued American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, enacted by the 89th Congress, whose authority lapsed in January. The commission had been troubled by charges of poor management, commercialism and patronage.

The President's nomination of Warner to run the new bicentennial administration is regarded in the White House as reflecting a presidential de-

termination to ensure that the observation will be substantially untroubled by scandal.

Mr. Nixon said today that celebration of the nation's 200th anniversary will begin next March, and he warned that it is not going to be run by Washington. "Instead," he said, "we shall seek to trigger a chain reaction of tens of thousands of individual celebrations — large and small."

planned and carried out by citizens in every part of America."

While the President was talking about the nation's future, his advisers were looking ahead to a week of presidential appearances in Chicago, Nashville and Houston that are aimed at improving his own precarious political situation.

Dubbed "Operation Friendly Persuasion" within the White House, these appearances are designed to demonstrate that Mr. Nixon is still capable of governing at a time when a host of former aides and advisers have been indicted and when the President himself faces impeachment proceedings in the House.

Mr. Nixon's current advisers are not making any predictions. Though they are enthusiastic about the way he responded to questions at two recent White House press conferences, there is a general recognition here that his capacity to survive will be severely tested in the months ahead.

White House officials also concede there are "semantical differences" between the President's answer at his March 6 news conference, when he acknowledged that payments had been made to Watergate defendants to keep them quiet, and his earlier statements.

They insist, however, that Mr. Nixon has always meant that he did not approve a plan to keep the Watergate defendants silent by paying them money and approving executive clemency. The President conceded at his news conference that others listening to the tape recording of his March 21, 1973, White House meeting with then counsel John W. Dean III and then-chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman "may reach different interpretations."

Mr. Nixon spent a long weekend at his Key Biscayne home sunning by the pool and swimming. He is scheduled to see Patricia Nixon off Monday from Homestead Air Force Base when she departs for a six-day trip to South America.

Mrs. Nixon will represent the President at the inauguration of the presidents of Brazil and Venezuela. Mr. Nixon is scheduled to return later Monday to Washington.