

Veto Plan Affirmed By Nixon

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon said yesterday he would veto the emergency energy bill the House passed Wednesday because it "would inevitably lead to compulsory rationing in this country, and that we are not going to have, and we should not have."

In his strongest assertion to date that he will not impose gasoline rationing, the President also said that the bill would result in less production and longer gas station lines.

The President said nothing about the prospects for an end of the Arab oil embargo. He made his remarks in a speech before the Young Republican Leadership Conference at the Shoreham Hotel.

Later, Vice President Ford told me the same group that he was optimistic about the gasoline situation.

"It's my judgment we're about over the hump," Ford said. "We have conserved a substantial amount of gas and fuel oil. If we get a break in the oil embargo—and I'm optimistic—then I know we're over the hump."

Ford predicted that the President's veto would be upheld. The measure passed the House Wednesday by a vote of 258 to 151—15 less than the necessary two thirds to override. The Senate earlier voted 67 to 32, three more than needed to override.

Mr. Nixon called the bill "well-intentioned," but he said it "goes in the wrong direction."

His chief criticism was of the amendment calling for a rollback in crude oil prices.

"I am going to veto it not because I am against lower prices... but because I am for more gas and oil available to the American people at prices they can afford to pay," the President said.

By stimulating supply, he

said, "the prices will go down, the gas lines will certainly disappear and we can move forward as a country with the energy that we need."

The President's veto message, in which he is expected to outline proposals for a substitute measure, will be sent to Congress in several days, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said.

Mr. Nixon emphasized that Congress also must relax environmental restrictions to permit a greater use of coal.

"The important thing for us to remember is that the coal resources of this nation must be put to work in order to get rid of the energy shortage," he said.

Emphasizing his free-enterprise philosophy, the President said that the way to "real prosperity" is "not through more and more reliance on government but more and more reliance on people."

As an example, he said that the federal government would have to spend \$15 billion in the next five years to develop energy resources. But he said that in the same period private enterprise will spend \$200 billion to develop sources of energy.

The answer to the energy problem, he emphasized, is not through "bigger and bigger government; the answer is through unleashing and encouraging and providing incentives to private enterprise to do the job that needs to be done."