Nixon Submits Bills to Fight Crime in City

By Leonard Downie Jr. Washington Post Staff Writer

The Nixon Administration proposed for Washington yesterday a new, streamlined court system with stiff rules for the detection, arrest, bail and trial of criminal

"This model anticrime program will point the way for the entire Nation," Attorney General John N. Mitchell

> said, "at a time when crime and fear of crime are forcing us, a free people, to alter the pattern of our lives."

> The package of bills sent to Congress, Mitchell said, reflects the Nixon Administration's "firm, but even-handed approach" on crime control.

> The bills aim at unifying and updating the courts here, speeding trials, and providing criminal defendants and civil litigants with improved services.

> They advocate drastic steps to jail "dangerous" defendants before trial.

They authorize investigative wiretapping.

They give the police new ar-rest and search powers. They greatly strengthen the prosecutor's weapons in court battles.

325-Page Blueprint

Minutely detailed, 325-page blueprint for overhauling the city's courts would create for the first time an almost completely local legal system for Washington, except for Presidential appointment of judges and prosecution of felony cases by Federal lawyers.

A new "Superior Court" for the District of Columbia, housed in a planned new courthouse on Pennsylvania Avenue, would include the present Court of General Sessions, Juvenile Court, D.C. Tax Court and all local criminal, civil and probate cases now handled by the U.S. District Court here.

Appeals from all cases in this court would go to an enlarged D.C. Court of Appeals, and from there directly to the U.S. Supreme Count if it ac.

cepted the case.

Bypass Appeals Court

This would bypass the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here, whose jurists, led by Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, have used their jurisdiction over local cases to write many new legal doctrines considered to be liberal departures from tradition.

The U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court here would revert to the status of the Nation's other Federal courts, handling only peculiarly Federal crimes and Government litigation.

See JUSTICE, A12, Col. 1

Related stories on Page A12

JUSTICE, From A1

Coupled with the court reorganization are a series of Nixon Administration proposals for changing police and court rulings to strengthen the hand of law enforcement officers.

The U.S. attorney's office and likely to be convicted. here would be impowered to use wiretaps - without a authorization iudge's "emergencies" - to investiabortion and property destruction time for trial. tion to narcotics sales and murder.

The police would be authorized to make more arrests without warrants.

And they would no longer have to knock first and identify themselves when executing a warrant in a raid when lives are in danger or evidence, such as gambling slips or narcotics, could be destroyed.

The three-hour limit on the time during which police may question suspects before presenting them to a magistrate would be stretched by the time it takes the police to book and fingerprint them and perform other necessary pro-cedures not involving ques-now go to the District Comtioning.

Prosecutors would be given ate. new rights to appeal court rul-

give stiffer sentences to many kinds of convicts and permitted to mete out life sentences to three-time losers.

The preventive detention proposal would authorize judges to jail pending trial authorize suspects whom they believe to be a danger to the community

Those defendants who win release until trial would get in stiff mandatory sentences for committing new crimes while gate most felony crimes, from free for failing to show up

> This preventive detention authority is in addition to another bill in the Administration package that would expand the D.C. Bail Agency and direct it to supervise defendants released until trial.

> The fourth and final bill sent to Congress would expand the D.C. Legal Agency into a professional Public Defender Service providing free, Government paid lawyers for up to 60 per cent of the indi-gent defendants, including juveniles, there.

The fat bill to reorganize the city's courts and change some of the rules for dealing mittees of the House and Sen-

The Senate District Commitings that go against them, tee, under Chairman Joseph even after a trial is over and D. Tydings (D-Md.), will begin defendant has been acquitted. hearings next week on the bill Judges would be required to and several much less detailed

court overhaul proposals al- service of subpoenaes for witready introduced by Tydings nesses. and other Senators.

Justice Department for mov-warned earlier.

als a long summary of the \$22 tional attention. million included in the fiscal 1969 and 1970 budgets for the

Justice Department experts who drafted the bills also also introduced a similar bill. pointed out that the Adminislier by Tydings.

officials, the package unveiled amends. yesterday is meticulously detailed, down to a retirement plan for judges, the fee to be paid the executioner and the men in the local bar on the

All this, and especially in-Tydings had twice post-poned these hearings when the Administration bill was not ready earlier this year. for the Congressional process Last week, he strongly criti- to swallow before the end of cized the President and the this session, as Tydings had

ing too slowly.

In answer to this, the Justice Department included with yesterday's legislative proposal stage of congressional and na-

It has the strong approval of city to expand and improve tion and Republicans on Capithe police force, courts, prison tol Hill, who have already introduced a similar bill, those considered legal conservatives
—and, oddly, Tydings, who has

But just as varied a coalitration anticrime package is tion opposes the concept, in-much more detailed than simi-cluding civil libertarians and lar bills introduced much ear- Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-S.C.). Ervin chairs the Senate Judici-Privately, they accused Tyl- ary Subcommittee that must ings of rushing to beat and approve the preventive deten-tion bill. And he wrote the True to the word of Justice Bail Reform Act of 1966 that it

paid the executioner and the type of annual reports to be made by court officers.

Other details of vital importance to local lawyers, who had feared they would be tried in the Federal court-overlooked, are also included, house, rather than the hurly large at the 25 wile reduced for large tribuned. such as the 25-mile radius for burly of a truly local tribunal.