

Nixon Asks Leadership On Campus

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By Eric Wentworth
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon said yesterday that he has recognized and tried to use the "immense moral authority" of his office, but added that Americans have many other moral leaders too.

Mr. Nixon, in his long-awaited response to the Scranton Commission's Sept. 26 report on campus unrest, thus seemed to dismiss that panel's assertion that "only the President" can offer the moral leadership to reunite a divided nation.

The President's "Dear Bill" letter to William W. Scranton, commission chairman and former governor of Pennsylvania, was notably moderate in tone, however. While Mr. Nixon disagreed with the panel on some points, he was quick to spot common ground on such issues as condemning violence.

Scranton, attending a Yale University trustees meeting in New Haven, declined comment on the seven-page letter until he could study its entire contents. He said he had left Pennsylvania for the meeting Friday while it was still being dictated. The White House confirmed that the letter's text was dictated by phone after the original, mailed Thursday afternoon, failed to arrive the next day.

"Throughout my public life," the President wrote, "I have come to know the immense moral authority of the Presidency. During these past 22 months I have tried to exercise that authority to bring an end to violence and bitterness."

The "vigorous opposition" confronting any new President, Mr. Nixon said, is "an inevitable but natural barrier" to his capacity to lead all Americans toward the national goals he sets.

But in any event, he asserted, "Moral authority in a

great and diverse nation such as ours does not reside in the Presidency alone.

"There are thousands upon thousands of individuals—clergy, teachers, public officials, scholars, writers—to whom segments of the nation look for moral, intellectual and political leadership."

See SCRANTON, A14, Col. 1

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Nixon Urges Leadership On Campus

SCRANTON, From A1

Mr. Nixon cited Vice President Agnew as high on the list of "leaders of the national community" who have forthrightly and flatly condemned violence and disruption while reaffirming the principles of a free society.

"History will look favorably I believe upon these men and women," the President said.

"It may well look severely," he added, "upon those others—on and off campus—who for whatever reason refused or failed to speak out forthrightly against the inequities visited upon the academic community."

Mr. Nixon said that he regretted "distorted press accounts" of the commission's conclusions about the President's role as national reconciler.

The nine-member commission said that its "most important" recommendations concerned the President. But a White House spokesman said yesterday that Mr. Nixon among others felt that these recommendations dominated some news accounts at the expense of what the panel had to say to lawmen, university officials, students and others.

The President restated his position that, "Responsibility

for maintaining a peaceful and open climate for learning in an academic community does not rest with the federal government—it rests squarely with the members of that academic community themselves."

The commission's report, he noted, "clearly avoided the cliché that the only way to end campus violence is to solve once and for all the social problems that beset our nation."

At the same time, Mr. Nixon said that "removing the causes of legitimate dissent" is a continuing, long-run goal of the nation's government and "remains the business of this administration."

He recited administration efforts to end poverty through welfare reform, expand educational opportunity through revising student aid, ease the draft's burden on youth, make progress toward equal job opportunities and attack racial discrimination.

"We have reordered the nation's priorities," the President said.

"We have redirected American foreign policy. We have diminished America's involvement in the Asian war and sought to end that war in a way that will justify the sacrifices of this generation of young Americans, and prevent similar sacrifices by their younger brothers of the next generation."

If reply to other commission recommendations aimed at the federal government, Mr. Nixon said that Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird was reviewing possible National Guard and ROTC changes and Attorney General John N. Mitchell was "reviewing the many suggestions pertaining to law enforcement activities within his jurisdiction and the special reports on Kent State and Jackson State."

The President did not specifically endorse the panel's sharp criticism of National Guardsmen at Kent State University and police at Jackson State College who fatally shot young demonstrators. But he did agree that lawmen should use "only the minimum force necessary" in quelling disorders, and added that "the taking of a life can be justified only as a necessary and last resort."