

Drug Fight Seen Successful

President Cites Reduction of Related Crime

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon said yesterday that as a result of the administration's campaign against dangerous drugs "we have turned the corner on drug addiction in the United States.

"There is a long road after turning that corner before we get to our goal of getting it really under control," the President told a conference of judges, educators and law enforcement officers, "but we have turned the corner."

As evidence, the President said that in both New York City and Washington there has been a reduction in drug-related crime.

The federal government is now spending 10 times as much on the anti-drug campaign as it was when he took office, he said. He promised to continue the campaign "on all fronts."

Mr. Nixon spoke in the East Room before about 250 officials from 23 cities who came to Washington for a conference on "Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime." He appeared relaxed and in good humor, and showed no signs of his recent illness.

Earlier, the President conferred for 45 minutes with former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally. The two met alone, according to deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, and discussed tentative plans for a trip Connally may make later in the year to Europe and the Middle East.

Asked if they discussed politics, Warren replied: "The President did not mention any political discussion." Connally, a Democrat who switched to the Republican Party earlier this year, was in the city to attend a reception given in his honor by Texas Republicans.

Warren said that in addition to a possible Connally trip the two men discussed the econ-

omy and foreign policy issues.

Warren would not say whether the invitation the nine Common Market nations extended to the President to visit Europe was satisfactory. The President has said he intended to visit Europe this year, and the nine foreign ministers, at a meeting Monday in Copenhagen, framed an invitation.

"We have seen the press reports on the foreign ministers' conference," Warren said, "but we have not received a detailed report."

When the report is received, it will be studied carefully, he said. He recalled that Secretary of State-designate Henry A. Kissinger has said the President does not want to go to Europe for a ceremonial visit but to discuss substantive issues.

Warren's cautious response to questions led some observers to conclude that plans for the trip may be less firm than originally believed, but other officials said the trip is still expected but that the White House wants to work out various problems before making a definite announcement.

Later yesterday, the President met with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur F. Burns to discuss monetary and fiscal problems. The White House would give no details on the meeting, but it seemed obvious that the threat of rising interest rates was one of the matters discussed.

In the speech in the East Room, the President announced that he would nominate John R. Bartels Jr. of Garrison, N.Y., who has been acting administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, to be director.

The position was created by a reorganization plan which brought all the government's drug enforcement agencies to-

gether in the Justice Department.

Bartels practiced law in New York, and was an assistant U. S. attorney there before being named deputy special assistant attorney general in 1972.

The President said that when he came into office and began to deal with the drug abuse problem he soon found that there should be four different approaches. The first was to try to dry up the source of supply, he said. The second was to work on law enforcement and to impose stricter penalties on drug offenders. The third was to provide better treatment to addicts, and the fourth was to educate people "to stop the demand" for drugs.

Two thirds of the federal expenditure on drug control go for treatment, he said. "On the treatment side, there needed to be an enormous push given," he said.

"We are going to win this battle," he said. "We have turned the corner, but having turned the corner, we are going to go on down this road until the whole nation realizes that drug addiction in the United States is under control."

The President scheduled a meeting for today with James T. Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and presidential counsellor Melvin R. Laird, to discuss a new housing program soon to be submitted to Congress.



By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

President Nixon enters the East Room for a conference on crime and drug control.