

White House Takes a Conciliatory Approach as Congress

By RICHARD L. MADDEN
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WASHINGTON, July 12—When Republican Congressional leaders go to the White House, usually every Tuesday to talk about legislation with President Nixon, they now take along eight or so other Republican Senators and Representatives not involved in the leadership so as to present a broader Congressional viewpoint to the President.

Even Senator William Proxmire, a Wisconsin Democrat who was on a 1971 White House "political enemies" list

that was disclosed last month in the Senate Watergate hearings, was invited to a White House dinner earlier this week. However, he declined because of a scheduling conflict.

But these developments illustrate a concerted White House effort to improve its Congressional relations at a time when Congress appears to be in a mood to reassert its powers, such as the rejection yesterday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of Mr. Nixon's nomination of G. McMurtrie Godley, former Ambassador to Laos, to be Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs.

One Republican Senator who voted against Mr. Godley's nomination, Jacob K. Javits of New York, said the committee's action represented a new development in Congressional relations with the Administration by using the Senate's power to confirm nominations to assert "a voice" in the shaping of foreign policy.

Mr. Godley was closely identified with Washington's policies on Indochina, and the committee recommended that he be given another assignment not involving Southeast Asia.

Despite the rejection of Mr. Godley, Senator Javits and

Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, who also voted against the nomination, said in separate interviews that they thought Congressional relations with the White House had improved in recent months.

"It is getting more and more to be a 50-50 partnership, rather than 80-20," Mr. Javits said.

"I think relations probably are better," Mr. Case said. "It's awfully hard to pinpoint specific examples, though, because this is a period of enormous flux."

Nonetheless, the committee's

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Seeks to Reassert Its Own Power

rejection of Mr. Godley's nomination was one more sign of a more rebellious Congress.

Last month, for example, the Senate killed the nomination of Robert H. Morris, a San Francisco lawyer who had represented the Standard Oil Company of California, to be a member of the Federal Power Commission.

Then, after a majority of the House voted to support legislation passed by the Senate to cut off funds for American bombing operations in Cambodia, Mr. Nixon and Congress reached a compromise to cut off funds for the bombing as

of Aug. 15.

Also, a joint Congressional committee on Federal expenditures reported yesterday that, through last June 1, Congress had increased Federal spending more than \$1-billion above the \$268.7-billion sought by the President for the fiscal year that began July 1.

The battle between Congress and the White House over so-called "budget-busting" measures is expected to intensify in the coming weeks as Congress completes work on the various appropriations bills to operate the Federal departments and agencies in the new fiscal year.

The drive among Congressmen to reassert Congressional power was under way before the Watergate scandal put Mr. Nixon on the defensive.

A Senate Republican aide, recalling that the Senate had sustained Mr. Nixon's veto of a politically popular vocational rehabilitation measure earlier this year, said:

"I think it would be questionable whether we could sustain that veto today. In light of everything that has happened, it would be difficult to appeal to some Senators to support the President out of sheer loyalty."