

NIXON SIGNS BILL TO COMBAT CRIME

Gives 'Tools' for 'Total War'
to Mitchell and Hoover

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 (UPI)—President Nixon signed his anticrime bill today under unusually tight security precautions in the Justice Department building. He praised the bill as a major tool in the fight against organized crime and terrorism.

The new law, Mr. Nixon said, will give the Federal Government the means "to launch a total war against organized crime, and we will end this war." He added that it "should be a warning to those who engage in these [terrorist] acts that we are not going to tolerate these activities."

Handing the signed bill to Attorney General John N. Mitchell and J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Nixon said: "Gentlemen, I give you the tools. You do the job."

The ceremony was conducted on the second floor of the Justice Department building, three-quarters of a mile down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

Invitation a Requirement

The five-story building swarmed with Secret Service men, who blocked normal passage through the halls leading to the second-floor auditorium where the ceremony was held.

Only invited persons were allowed to enter the closed area, and three to four guards at each entrance checked credentials. Secret Service agents with walkie-talkies guarded every entrance to the building that provided access to the auditorium.

Mr. Nixon entered through an inner courtyard, where employes stood behind ropes held by Secret Service men. There was a loud cheer as the President entered the building.

Later the President toured a new communications center at the District of Columbia police headquarters, accompanied by

Mr. Mitchell and Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson. Greeting policemen along the way, Mr. Nixon commented to one patrolman: "Now with the crime bill signed, we ought to take off jet-propelled."

The crime bill, given final Congressional approval Monday, provides the death penalty for anyone convicted of a fatal bombing.

It permits F.B.I. agents to investigate and Federal attorneys to prosecute bombings and arson on college campuses and at every other institution or organization that receives Federal financial help.

Extra Judicial Terms

To fight organized crime, the measure permits judges to impose additional sentences of up to 25 years on certain "dangerous and adult special offenders" who are convicted of crimes that carry lesser penalties.

The legislation also does the following:

- Makes it a crime to use money from organized crime to establish a legitimate business in interstate commerce.

- Makes it a Federal crime to participate in a conspiracy to obstruct the enforcement of state or local gambling laws.

- Establishes Federal control over interstate and foreign commerce in explosives.

- Creates a national commission to determine if the crime bill or any current laws infringe on individual rights.

The President also signed legislation creating a system of public defenders for persons financially unable to get adequate legal aid in criminal cases. The bill provides for two different types of public defender systems in judicial areas where 200 or more appointments are required every year.

The Federal Public Defender Organization will be manned by salaried Federal employes under the supervision of a Federal public defender. The other system, the Community Defender Organization could be any non-profit defense counsel service. The government would pay the costs on a per-hour basis.

The two systems could be used only to supplant, not replace, the appointment of private attorneys.