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Administration Offers to Back Quick-Trials Bill

by Fred P. Graham

Washington, Sept. 14 - The Nixon Administration offered today to support legislation guaranteeing defendants quick trials, if Congress would sweeten the pending bill by adding several measures favored by prosecutors.

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Under the Justice Department's proposal, prisoners could not seek to overthrow their convictions on the grounds that the police had violated such Supreme Court ruling[s] as *Miranda v. Arizona*, which requires the police to warn suspects of their rights, or *Mapp v. Ohio*, which excludes evidence obtained in illegal searches.

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[Assistant General William H. Rehnquist] mentioned two other measures that the Justice Department desires, but would not tie these to the speedy trial bill. One would eliminate the Supreme Court's rulings that exclude illegally obtained evidence, the other would permit convictions by less-than-unanimous juries.