

The Presidential Vetoes

WASHINGTON — The Congress finally has begun to act like a proud, independent branch of government.

But the White House is trying to sell you the idea that independence is irresponsibility, and that by refusing to give the President free rein to mangle programs and hold spending to \$250 billion this year the Congress has forced a tax increase on you.

YOU CAN'T AFFORD to fall for that nonsense.

This administration produced a \$23 billion deficit in fiscal 1971, a \$23 billion deficit in 1972 and another deficit of \$31.3 billion is projected for this fiscal year. The reason was not a spendthrift Congress but the simple fact that with so many workers unemployed and so many corporations in the production doldrums, revenues going into the Treasury would not meet the people's needs.

We all ought to cheer Congress for this new show of fighting spirit. Nothing speaks more eloquently — or dismayingly — about Mr. Nixon's sense of priorities than the list of measures that he vetoed:

Jan. 26, 1970—a bill appropriating \$19.7 billion for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

June 22, 1970 — a measure authorizing \$2.79 billion for Hill-Burton hospital construction programs.

Aug. 11, 1970 — a bill appropriating \$4.4

billion for the Office of Education. He was overridden.

Dec. 16, 1970 — a measure authorizing \$9.5 billion for federal manpower training and public service employment programs.

Dec. 26, 1970 — a "pocket veto" of a bill authorizing \$225 million to assist hospitals and medical schools in relieving the shortage of doctors.

June 29, 1971 — an authorization of \$5.7 billion for public works acceleration and public development.

Dec. 9, 1971 — a bill authorizing \$6.3 billion for the poverty program and to establish day care centers for children of working parents.

Aug. 16, 1972 — an appropriation of \$30.5 billion for the Departments of Labor and HEW for fiscal 1973.

Oct. 17, 1972 — a \$24.6 billion measure for the control of water pollution. He was overridden.

THIS PARTIAL VETO record is enough to make it clear that Mr. Nixon has a penchant for seeing "waste" or "inflation" in measures with a high "human" content. The more people likely to benefit, especially weak and poor people, the more likely is a measure to run afoul of a presidential veto.

The reluctance of Congress is all the clearer when we note that where military spending is concerned it is usually Mr. Nixon who takes on the spendthrift role and Congress that plays the miser.