

## In 11th-Hour Action, President Vetoes Bill

In what may have been his last major act in the White House, President Nixon yesterday vetoed the appropriations bill for the Agriculture Department and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Two weeks ago, I vowed to the American people that any appropriations bill substantially above my budget for fiscal year 1975 would be vetoed," the President said in a statement given to the press at 5:30 p.m. "This legislation exceeds my budgetary recommendations by such a large amount that it presents a clear and distinct threat to our fight against inflation."

President Nixon said the bill sent to him by Congress calls for spending \$540 million more than he wanted to spend. He said that the bill included water and sewer grants for agriculture that totaled \$345 million, more than eight times what it was at any time in the past.

The President also objected to farm loans he said were \$400 million more than he recommended. The President opposed as well a provision in the bill transferring from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the EPA a \$175 million program to clean up the Great Lakes.

"The feasibility of this clean-up has not yet been proven," the President said. "Further study is essential if we are to avoid ineffective federal spending for these purposes."