

Group to Fight 'Nixon Isolation'

Washington

Governor Daniel J. Evans of Washington announced yesterday the formation of a coalition of state, county and city lobbyists to push for budgetary reform in Congress and to try to reverse what he called the "deeper and deeper isolation" of the Nixon administration.

Evans, a Republican, and the chairman of the National Governors Conference, said that the coalition was modeled after the informal alliance that pushed successfully for the administration's general revenue-sharing bill. He acknowledged that the group had no set position on the special revenue-sharing programs now languishing in Congress.

LEAGUE

Staff members from the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties, as well as from the governors' association, will do the coalition's work here.

The closest thing to a policy position so far, Evans said at a news conference, is the feeling among state and local governments that congressional budget-making has become "an insane way to operate." But in a speech at the National Press Club, the governor's most pointed remarks were addressed to the Nixon administration and the press:

"In the field of domestic affairs," he said of the Nixon White House, "it has been sinking into deeper and deeper isolation."

He continued: "What I am talking about is the modern-day tragedy of the Presidency. He is quite literally the prisoner of Pennsylvania avenue, or San Clemente, or Camp David.

"The tragedy is compounded by a Washington press corps which, isolated in Washington, D.C., flits from presidential compound to presidential compound, rarely, if ever, touching down to see what the rest of the country is about. Each builds on the other an unreal view of themselves and an unreal view of America and thus presents to the American citizen a crabbed and distorted view of their own view of themselves and an

REMEDY

He proposed that one remedy would be to hold presidential news conferences often enough to make them dull — and at least once a week.

"One of the best things that could happen," said Evans, "is if at presidential news conferences there were no handouts, no new questions and no noteworthy news. This would do wonders for the morale of the President, the self-esteem of the press and the welfare of the country.

New York Times