

Bill Signed to Extend Watergate Grand Jury

President Nixon signed a bill yesterday to extend for as much as a year, if necessary, the life of the Watergate grand jury.

The grand jury had been scheduled to go out of business on Dec. 4—next week. The extension was requested by the Department of Justice last month.

The measure provides for one mandatory six-month extension of the grand jury's tenure and for an additional six-month extension at the discretion of the U.S. District Court. The bill provides that "in no event" will the term of the grand jury be extended beyond Dec. 4, 1974.

In other action, the President signed:

- An authorization of \$2.77 billion for military construction during the current fiscal year, \$283.5 million less than requested. It authorizes \$107 million for air and water pol-

lution abatement at military installations, \$112.2 million for construction for Reserve forces and construction of 10,679 new housing units for military families at an average cost of \$27,500 per unit.

- An appropriation of \$215.6 million for operation of the U.S. Information Agency during the current fiscal year after Congress eliminated a provision the administration objected to.

The President earlier this year vetoed the authorization funding the USIA because the measure included a provision requiring a cutoff of funds if the agency refused to provide the Senate Foreign Relations Committee or the House Foreign Affairs Committee with any documents or communications requested. Mr. Nixon objected to this, contending the provision was an infringement on the right of confidentiality and Congress failed to override his veto.