

Nixon accused of 'knuckling

WASHINGTON — Two members of Congress accused the White House yesterday of knuckling under to big business and trying to weaken a proposal they called "the most important piece of consumer legisla-

tion in recent years."

Reps. Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) and Frank Horton (R-N.Y.) said a last-minute objection from President Nixon's budget director, Roy Ash, is threatening efforts to create a Consumer Protec-

tion Agency.

Such an agency would act as a lobbyist for the consumer, intervening in government activities to present his viewpoint and attempting to call problems to the

under'

attention of various federal agencies.

Controversy over how much power such an agency should have, and exactly how it should go about its business, has prevented legislative action for the past

three years.

"This measure is the most important piece of consumer legislation in recent years," Holifield and Horton said in a joint statement.

But last Wednesday, the evening before a session at which the committee was to decide on final language, a letter arrived from Ash asking for several changes.