

Nixon Vetoes Agriculture, EPA Funds

Washington

The White House said the combined expenditures of both agencies under the bill would be \$13.571 billion, some \$540 million over his request.

In a message to the House, Mr. Nixon wrote:

"This legislation exceeds my budgetary recommendations by such a large amount . . . that it presents a clear and distinct threat to our fight against inflation and cannot be accepted."

He said he "would welcome congressional reconsideration of this bill" and expressed hope that in the future "the Congress will assiduously avoid enacting measures which pose inflationary problems."

Mr. Nixon was particularly critical of appropriations for the Agriculture Department's water and sewer grants, saying the authorized level of \$345 million would be "more than eight times higher than any level in the past."

Mr. Nixon also opposed a provision authorizing the EPA to spend \$175 million to clean up pollution in the Great Lakes.

"The feasibility of this cleanup program has not yet been proven," he said. "Further study is essential if we are to avoid ineffective federal spending for these purposes."

In other actions yesterday, Mr. Nixon:

- Signed legislation extending a program of special aid for the jobless in high-unemployment areas and providing cost of living increases in benefits for aged, blind and disabled people.

- Accepted the resignations of William O. Doub as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission; Robert T. Monagan, who served since April, 1973 as assistant secretary of transportation for congressional and intergovernmental affairs, and Raymond L. Bisplinghoff, who is leaving after almost four years as deputy director of the National Science Foundation.

- Nominated Republican Governor Thomas J. Meskill of Connecticut for a place on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

A.P. & U.P.