

Ash Says Impounding to Continue

Washington

Despite the drubbing it has been taking in the courts on the issue, the Nixon administration is determined to continue impounding money appropriated by Congress if it deems such action necessary to keep the federal budget under control, according to Roy L. Ash, President Nixon's director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ash said in an interview, however, he expects that the President and Congress will be able to reach a consensus on government spending plans this fall so unilateral White House impoundment action will not be necessary.

Administration critics contend the courts have already

made a shambles of Mr. Nixon's contention that the Constitution and various general statutes empower him to decide whether to carry out spending programs mandated by Congress.

Of 30 cases in which states, cities and citizens groups have sued the administration to force it to release funds appropriated for

such purposes as health care, road building and education, Mr. Nixon has lost all but five.

Ash says, however, that only "very limited amounts" of the impounded funds have been released. The administration is still keeping under lock and key \$600 million to \$800 million in funds Congress voted to

spend this year.

Moreover, Ash said, while the administration has lost the bulk of the court cases so far, all of these have been lower court decisions and many of them are being appealed. One favorable Supreme Court verdict would wipe the slate clean, he added.

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