

NIXON FOR RETURN OF DEATH PENALTY

Wants Law to Apply When a
Kidnapping Victim Is Killed

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 8 (AP)—President Nixon, voicing concern over the fresh wave of kidnappings, has ordered Attorney General William B. Saxbe to press for reinstatement of the death penalty in cases where a kidnapping victim is killed, a White House official said today.

The White House chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., said Mr. Nixon had ordered Mr. Saxbe to study "whatever additional measures the Federal Government might take to deal with this problem of kidnapping."

General Haig told newsmen aboard the President's airplane on way to Florida that Mr. Nixon talked to Mr. Saxbe last night and this morning about lobbying Congress on the matter.

According to General Haig, when the President spoke with Mr. Saxbe "he conveyed his concern about the increased incidence of kidnapping."

Patricia Hearst, daughter of a San Francisco newspaper publisher, was kidnapped last month. Since then, an Atlanta editor was kidnapped and later freed after ransom was paid. There were kidnappings this week on Long Island and in Virginia.

General Haig said Mr. Nixon had told Mr. Saxbe he wanted "increased emphasis on legislation that has been on the Hill for a year that provides for reinstatement of the death penalty."

The measure was sent to Congress by Mr. Nixon on March 23, 1973, and would apply the death penalty in hijacking and terrorism cases as well as in kidnappings in which the victim is killed. The measure would not be retroactive.