

Nixon Signs New Legal Aid Bill

Washington

The White House announced yesterday that President Nixon has signed into law a bill creating a new, independent corporation providing legal aid to the poor.

Under the act, Legal Services lawyers no longer will be able to file actions in connection with military draft, desegregation, labor and abortion cases.

They still will be able to represent the poor in civil cases involving rent, child custody, property, housing and welfare rights.

Legal Services had been under the Office of Economic Opportunity since 1966. Legislation to create the corporation was stalled for three years by disputes between liberals and conservatives in both houses.

The bill was bitterly opposed by many conservatives and one, Senator James A. McClure (Rep-Ida.) charged Wednesday that Mr. Nixon was playing "impeachment politics" with the legal services measure.

McClure charged the President was trying to placate liberals by signing it into law.

Funds authorized are \$90 million this year, \$100 million next year.

Associated Press