

NIXON VETOES BILL FOR AGENCY FUNDS

Says the Measure ^{AUG 9 1974} is

a 'Distinct Threat' to
Fight on Inflation

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 8— President Nixon vetoed today \$13.5-billion in appropriations for Federal environmental, consumer protection and rural assistance programs. He called the bill a "distinct threat to our fight against inflation."

A White House spokesman said that the veto would be Mr. Nixon's last official action before resigning from office.

The appropriations measure, approved in both the House and the Senate by wide margins earlier this year, included Protection Agency, the Federal food stamp program and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, as well as relief to the drought-stricken farmers of the Great Plains.

In his veto message, sent to the House late today, Mr. Nixon charged that the total amount authorized for these and other programs in the fiscal year 1975 exceeded his budgetary recommendations by "some \$540-million."

He noted that, in his recent address on the state of the nation's economy, he had promised to veto any appropriations that substantially exceeded such limits.

Smaller Figure Cited

Senate Appropriations Committee staff members said, however, that it had been their understanding all along that the measure, as passed, exceeded by only \$38-million the non-inflationary limit set by the Office of Management and Budget.

In the veto message Mr. Nixon said that he "would welcome Congressional reconsideration of this bill" and that he hoped in the future the Congress "will assiduously avoid enacting measures which pose inflationary pressures."

The appropriations bill, which Senate sources predicted would be approved by the two-thirds vote necessary to override the President's veto, also contained fiscal-year funding for such Federal agencies as the Federal Trade Commission, the National Water Quality Commission and the Great Plains Conservation Program.

Other Actions

In other actions, the President nominated three Federal judges. They were Thomas Meskill, nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Robert W. Warren, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; and Donald D. Alsop, to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Before vetoing the appropriations measure, the President signed one bill that would extend the expiration date of the Defense Production act of 1950, and another that would exempt vessels operated by agencies of the United States from duties on equipment and repairs.