

Nixon Decries Lag On Anticrime Bills

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By FRED P. GRAHAM

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WASHINGTON, June 11 — President Nixon warned today that the public might retaliate at the polls against members of Congress who failed to support anti-crime proposals endorsed by his Administration.

Speaking to visiting United States Attorneys at the White House, Mr. Nixon implied that election-year foot-dragging on Capitol Hill was responsible for the fact that none of the Administration's 13 anticrime proposals had passed Congress.

"I do not charge partisanship in this instance," Mr. Nixon said. But in an apparent reference to the Congressional elections in November, he added: "For the Congress to fail to act and go back to the people will

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be something that the people will remember."

The remarks by Mr. Nixon and an anticrime speech by Vice President Agnew to the same group today gave credence to a feeling among observers in Washington that the Nixon Administration intends to make crime a major campaign issue in the fall—whether its anticrime program is enacted or not.

According to the observers, if the bills pass before November, the Administration is expected to say that it is getting results in fighting crime. If not, its candidates can assert that a Republican Congress is needed to produce results against crime.

Opponents of the Nixon proposals have generally based their objections on provisions that are said to infringe on individual rights. Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg denounced the Administration's proposed preventive-detention law in Senate testimony today, calling it "unconstitutional" and "totalitarian."

Mr. Goldberg frequently referred to his own legal background and did not relate his position to his current political activities as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of New York. But copies of his prepared testimony that were distributed at the hearing bore the caption:

"Goldberg for Governor." The hearing was conducted by a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

In his remarks to the United States Attorneys in the Rose Garden, Mr. Nixon expressed disappointment that, in the 18 months since he endorsed a variety of proposals dealing with organized crime, narcotics, pornography and crime in the District of Columbia, none had reached his desk for signature.

Above Partisan Politics

He said that he understood partisan politics in an election year and that some bills can get delayed.

"After all, that is the way the political game is played," he said.

"But crime, respect for law, dealing with crime, these are

issues that are above partisan politics," Mr. Nixon said, "and I think it is time for the Congress to get off the dead-center on which it presently has been operating."

He called for Congress to get the bills out of the committees where they are currently being discussed. They should be quickly enacted, he said, so that the Government's attorneys would "have the tools to do the job."

The United States Attorneys are in Washington for their annual meeting. Mr. Nixon met them outside the White House with Attorney General John N. Mitchell at his side.

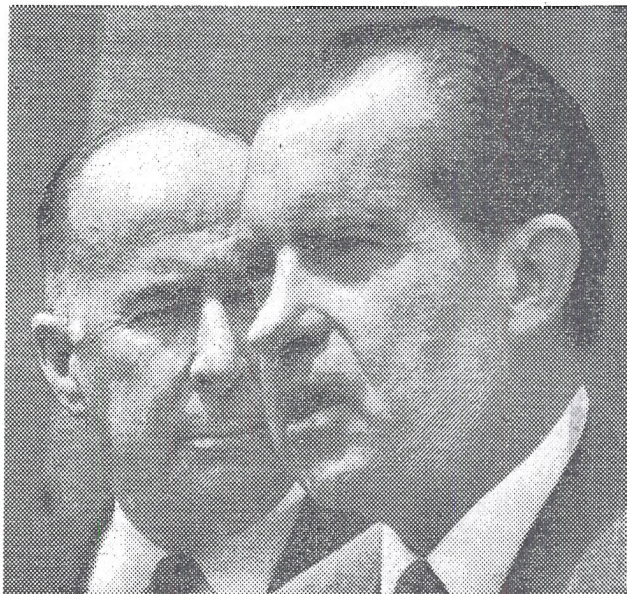
Both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew mentioned that reported crime did not rise as rapidly in 1969 as it did in the last two years of the Johnson Administration. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's statistics showed that the number of major crimes reported increased by 16 per cent in 1967 and by 19 per cent in 1968. In 1969, the increase was 11 per cent.

Agnew Stresses Efforts

Mr. Agnew stressed the increased efforts that he said the Justice Department had made against organized crime under the Nixon Administration, particularly in adding additional "strike forces" in cities with high Mafia activity.

He also reported, "sadly," that Congress had not enacted Mr. Nixon's anticrime legislation, and said that Congressional action was "imperative."

Mr. Goldberg's testimony was given before the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, whose chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, is waging a drive against the preventive-detention idea.



Associated Press

PRODS CONGRESS: President Nixon speaking yesterday outside the White House. At left is Attorney General John N. Mitchell. Mr. Nixon urged action on anticrime bills. His audience was a group of U.S. Attorneys and their wives.

Nixon Decries Lag in Congress On Anticrime Bills He Proposed

Mr. Goldberg said that the proposal to hold arrested persons for up to 60 days without bail, if they were considered likely to commit more crimes while they were awaiting trial, was unconstitutionally vague. He said that a better solution would be to provide speedy trials for arrested persons. This would protect society from dangerous persons and would not compromise constitutional rights, he said.

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mortgage market. The aim of the legislation, Mr. Romney said, is "noncontroversial" and "bipartisan support, is to help up the sagging housing industry, hit hard by inflation. If enacted, Mr. Romney said, the legislation could make it possible for 400,000 families to purchase homes this year. He continued that the legislation was being held up by attempts to attach "controversial" amendments to it, but he would not specify what such attempts might be. The Senate version of the bill includes an amendment, sponsored by Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, to include \$60-million additional to subsidize mortgages for individuals of modest incomes who do not qualify for existing subsidy programs, such as those of the Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration. But Mr. Romney said that the

Nixon Administration was not opposed to the Proxmire amendment. Mr. Nixon's remarks yesterday expressing disappointment over the crime measures, introduced 18 months ago, prompted both the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate today to defend that chamber's record on anticrime legislation. The majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that 11 of the 13 measures had been adopted and the two others were pending because of constitutional issues involved. "I want the record straight," Mr. Mansfield said in a Senate speech. "I want it read in the White House. I want it read by those officials who make these speeches blaming the Congress." The minority floor leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, agreed that any blame for delinquency on crime bills "is not to be laid at the door of the Senate."