

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1970

President Signs Bill to Fight Crime in the Capital

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 29 (AP)—President Nixon, repeating his assertion that Congress has been slow to act on anticrime legislation, signed today the controversial District of Columbia crime control bill.

"I hope this is only the beginning," he said.

With only newsmen looking on, Mr. Nixon signed the document in his Western White House office.

The President noted that he presented 13 law enforcement proposals to Congress more than a year ago and that the District of Columbia bill was the first to reach his desk.

He charged that Congress had shown its "poorest batting average" in handling crime legislation.

Other Bills Backed

When he meets Monday in Denver with state law enforcement officials, he said, he will attempt to mobilize support for the dozen bills still pending.

Mr. Nixon called attention to the bulkiness of the District of Columbia law and said it was unprecedented in size in his Administration.

He added that it dealt with "an unprecedented measure problem."

Mr. Nixon said that when he took office the nation's capital was "fast becoming the crime capital of the world."

He said the new law would provide the tools to reverse Washington's rising crime rate.

The measure, which is expected to serve as a model for the states, is the first Nixon anticrime proposal to become law.

Provisions of Law

The legislation expands police authority for wiretapping under court order, sets manda-



Associated Press

President Nixon holds anticrime bill he signed at his office in San Clemente, Calif.

tory minimum sentences for second offenders convicted of armed violent crimes, allows adult trials for juveniles charged with violent crimes, provides more judges and creates a public-defender system.

Opponents of the bill in Congress charged that it was repressive.

The legislation allows the pretrial jailing of persons adjudged likely to endanger community safety and authorizes

the police to enter homes without knocking while executing certain search and arrest warrants.

The no-knock feature, designed for use when the police fear that evidence may be destroyed as they wait at the door, requires a magistrate's approval in each case before it is invoked.

The measure grew out of recommendations submitted to Congress last year by Mr.

Nixon who, during the 1968 Presidential campaign, called Washington the crime capital of the world.

A bill to provide preventive detention in all Federal jurisdictions is one of several other Administration proposals pending in Congress.

Other proposals would renew Federal aid to local police agencies, combat organized crime and revise penalties for crimes related to narcotics.