

CONGRESS MOVES TO GIVE NIXON ANTICRIME LEGISLATION HE SEEKS BY MID-OCTOBER

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 23— With law and order emerging as perhaps the key campaign issue, the Democratic-controlled Congress moved swiftly today to give President Nixon the anticrime and drug-abuse legislation he has long sought.

After months of uncertainty, the outlook now is that the major "law-and-order" legislation sought by the President will reach his desk before Congress recesses or adjourns in mid-October.

The flurry of activity today brought these developments:

¶The House began debate on a Senate-passed bill designed to crack down on illicit narcotics traffic but reducing penalties for lesser drug violations. House passage is expected late tomorrow.

¶The House Judiciary Committee approved a broad anti-crime bill after attaching to it the President's proposal for Federal intervention in major campus disorders. House floor action is expected within two weeks.

¶President Nixon asked Congress for \$14.1-million in supplemental funds to hire 1,000 additional Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to investigate campus bombings and to thwart aerial hijackings.

¶The House voted, 337 to 14, to cite a Communist party official, Arnold S. Johnson, for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer a House committee's questions concerning activities of an antiwar group, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

¶The Senate unanimously passed and sent to the House a bill to permit people receiving unsolicited pornographic mail to return it, with the original sender paying the return cost.

'Potholes' Are Filled

Clearance of the anti crime bill by the House Judiciary Committee represented a major victory for the Administration. Passed by the Senate last January, the bill had been stalled in the House committee by the committee's chairman Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn, and other Democrats, who charged that it contained unconstitutional provisions.

Mr. Celler justified committee approval of the bill today by saying the "unconstitutional potholes" had been filled. However, it was generally believed that committee action had been spurred primarily by repeated attempts by the President and

other members of his Administration to picture the Democrats as indifferent to law and order.

Further indication of the growing sensitivity of Democrats to Republican attempts to link them to lawless elements came today when 139 House Democrats issued a statement condemning hecklers who tried to disrupt recent speeches by President Nixon and Vice President Agnew.

Termining their statement an "appeal to reason," the Democrats called on citizens to give all public officials and candidates "an orderly forum for

the presentation of their views."

The statement was drafted by three Democratic liberals, Donald M. Fraser of Minnesota, Abner Mikva of Illinois, and Sam Gibbons of Florida, and signed by liberals and conservatives alike.

President Nixon's request today for \$14.1-million for 1,000 new Federal agents was promptly endorsed by George H. Mahon, a Texas Democrat who heads the House Appropriations Committee.

While worried about mounting Federal expenditures, Mr. Mahon said: "It will be another blow to the budget, but we've got to give the President what he needs to keep order."

It was uncertain when the additional F.B.I. agents could move into action. Congress must first appropriate the money, possibly within the next few weeks. Then, a certain amount of time would be needed for recruitment, and, finally, the recruits would have to go through a 14-week training period.

But while it could be early next year before the new recruits could move into action, some of the existing 7,000 agents could be assigned to investigate any campus bombings and arsons occurring before that time.

Authority for such Federal intervention is expected to be approved by Congress as part of the anticrime bill cleared today by the House committee.

The bill also would give the Government broader jurisdiction in prosecuting syndicated

gambling and provide the death penalty for those convicted of bombings resulting in death.

Meanwhile, House debate today on the Administration's drug abuse bill, already passed by the Senate, centered on the so-called "no-knock" provision under which Federal agents would be permitted to break into homes or offices on narcotics raids if they believed those inside would destroy illicit drug supplies if notice was given.

Earlier today, the House de-

bated only briefly before citing Arnold Johnson, public relations director of the United States Communist party, for contempt of Congress. The case now goes to the Justice Department, to be brought before a grand jury to decide if Mr. Johnson should be brought to trial on the contempt case.

Mr. Johnson was subpoenaed to testify June 11 at the House Internal Security Committee's investigation into activities of the new antiwar group. He refused to testify.