

Two Demos Reject Nixon Milk Report

Washington

Two leading Democratic senators yesterday rejected President Nixon's explanation raised the price supports for milk in 1971—an action that has been linked to a massive contribution by the milk industry to his reelection campaign.

In a statement he volunteered at a press conference in Orlando, Fla., Saturday night, Mr. Nixon said he put up the government supports of a guaranteed minimum milk price after the Democratic-controlled Congress "put a gun to our head."

He said that had he not proposed an increase of supports to 85 per cent, Congress would have legislated an even higher increase to 90 per cent of the milk parity price and would have overridden his veto of such a measure.

Yesterday Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield accused Mr. Nixon of making a partisan statement. "This is a statement that will not hold water," he told interviewers on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Mansfield noted that the President had been upheld in most of his vetoes. In the current congressional session, the President has ve-

toed nine bills sent to him by Congress. On only one — a bill restricting the President's ability to wage undeclared war — has Congress managed to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to override the veto.

Senator William Proxmire, a Democrat who represents the dairy state of Wisconsin, told interviewers on CBS' "Face The Nation" that he was "absolutely astonished" at Mr. Nixon's press conference statement.

He said he could not understand how Mr. Nixon could argue that his veto would be so easily overridden.

Press reports have said the industry gave \$2 million to the Nixon campaign in 1971. It was recently disclosed in court papers that two years earlier — in 1969 — a lawyer for the Texas-based Associated Milk Producers Inc. handed \$100,000 in cash to Mr. Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert Kalmbach, to win "sympathetic understanding" in the administration.

Federal investigators are seeking to find out if the action broke laws barring corporate contributions to election campaigns.

Reuters