

Keeping Nixon From 'Tilting Left'

Washington

Vowing to trim the budget and stop the administration from "tilting leftward," 70 conservative House Republicans have joined forces in an effort to influence President Nixon during the remainder of his time in office.

Known as "The Steering Committee," the group has been operating for the past year with nine paid research staffers from a cramped third-floor office near the Capitol.

But tomorrow they will meet for the first time to formally elect officers and map battle plans for the remainder of the 93rd Congress.

"We are moderate and conservative Republicans interested in helping the administration — and in keeping it from tilting leftward," said Representative Edward

J. Derwinski (Rep.-Ill.), the group's acting chairman.

"We are not a rival or faction within the House Republican conference," he said.

"We don't want House GOP leader John Rhodes to think its a rump group, which it's not," Derwinski said.

"Eventually," Derwinski said, "we hope to become a legitimate Republican answer to the Democratic Study Group," a lobbying-research group run by liberal House Democrats.

Representative Philip Crane (Rep.-Ill.), a group founder, said members will seek to influence the outcome of several controversial administration proposals this session, including White House plans for national health insurance, mass transit aid and welfare reform, as well as the pend-

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The More 'Available' Nixon

Washington

President Nixon is making himself much more accessible to members of his Cabinet than he has previously, Kenneth R. Cole Jr., a top White House aide, said yesterday.

In an interview, Cole was asked about criticism that his predecessor as head of the White House domestic council, John D. Ehrlichman, created a barrier of communication between the President and the people, Congress and the Cabinet.

"There is a very definite opening up on his (the President's) part to deal with the Cabinet," Cole replied.

ing energy and legal services measures.

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