

Two Vetoes Overridden By Senate

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Congress delivered a double blow to President Ford's prestige yesterday as the Senate joined the House in overriding two of Mr. Ford's vetoes.

The Senate narrowly overrode the veto of a Freedom of Information Act amendments bill designed to provide the press and public with easier access to government documents. The 65-to-27 vote was 3 over the necessary two thirds of those present and voting.

But it overrode a veto of a vocational rehabilitation bill rearranging the administration of federal programs to improve job opportunities for the handicapped by 90-to-1. Virginia Republican William L. Scott cast the lone vote to sustain the President.

Only five times before has a President received a mere single Senate vote to sustain a veto, the last time in 1921. Unanimous votes to override a veto have been cast only three times in Senate history.

Of 13 bills Mr. Ford has vetoed during his 3½ months in office, three have been overridden into law. The first was a railroad retirement bill last month.

During former President Nixon's 5½ years in office, he vetoed 25 bills and five were overridden.

VETO, A2, Col. 5

Two Vetoes Are Overridden

Senate

VETO, From A1

The House overrode both vetoes Wednesday, the vocational rehabilitation veto 398 to 7 and the Freedom of Information veto 371 to 31.

The House decided yesterday to refer another vetoed bill, a farm workers bill, to committee rather than cast a vote on it.

The override of the vocational rehabilitation veto sets the stage for another legal hassle over the President's pocket veto rights, if the administration decides to press its claim that the bill was dead and Congress had no right to vote on it.

Like Mr. Nixon before him, President Ford has continued to take advantage of short congressional recesses to "pocket veto" bills. To prevent Congress from adjourning so that a President could not return a vetoed bill to them, the Constitution provides that the President can "pocket veto" bills when Congress is away.

But congressional leaders maintain that they make arrangements to receive veto messages during short recesses and act promptly on vetoes when they return, so that Mr. Nixon's and Mr. Ford's use of the pocket veto is an abuse.

The vocational rehabilitation bill would alter procedures in Health, Education and Welfare, and the President's veto message said it would create another bureaucracy and dictate "where in HEW minute decisions must be made."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), in statement, called the President's objections "miserly and insubstantial . . . since they ignore the obvious fact that present HEW arrangements for the handicapped are ineffective, unsatisfactory and self-defeating."

The Freedom of Information vote was expected to be much closer, particularly since a letter urging support for Mr. Ford on the issue was circulated by, among others, Min-

ority Whip Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), the chairman of the Senate Judiciary, Appropriations and Armed Services Committees, Sens. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) and John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), respectively.

The President, in his veto message, objected to a provision authorizing judges to decide whether documents have been properly classified or not. He said courts should not make decisions in sensitive areas like military intelligence and foreign affairs where they have no expertise.

He also objected that confidentiality would be destroyed if law enforcement agencies like the FBI had to reveal information given them in confidence.

Sen. Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) announced he would vote to override the veto because "Watergate and the war in Vietnam might not have occurred" if Presidents had been able to mask their actions in secrecy." He said he would review CIA documents

