

Nixon Talk Called an 'Insult'

United Press International

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, said yesterday that President Nixon's advice to Americans to exercise economic restraint and increase savings was an insult.

In a statement responding to Mr. Nixon's Thursday night speech, Meany said:

"The President blamed everyone but himself for the economic mess he has created . . . When he took office the inflation rate was 4.3 per cent and 2.8 million Americans were unemployed. Today, inflation is 11.1 per cent and 4.8 million are jobless . . .

"The President's advice to families to buy less and save more was an insult. Consumers are already buying less because they just can't afford today's prices, especially since their income—but not that of the corporations—was stringently controlled for 30 months."

In other comment yesterday, Sen. Russell B. Long (D-Ala.) said the impeachment process has crippled Mr. Nixon's ability to deal with inflation.

Long, chairman of the Sen-

ate Finance Committee, said no program can work without the cooperation of labor, and Mr. Nixon's lines of communications to the AFL-CIO have been severed by the impeachment issue.

"At this point, the labor leadership is going all-out to impeach the President," Long said, "so, he is hardly on speaking terms with them."

In a television interview for Louisiana stations, Long added, "it would seem, therefore, that until this impeachment thing is behind us, President Nixon is not going to be able to do anything effectively to control the prices.

"He might try to get business to cooperate with him," Long added. "But, if he doesn't have labor aboard it just is not going to work."

Until the impeachment process ends, Long added, "we can take some stop-gap measures."

Meanwhile, he suggested that labor limit its wage increase demands to the increases in productivity.

But in return, Long said, labor is going to insist that some action be taken on interest rates, about business profits, and about food prices.

"... They are not going to make it by themselves and they feel that up to now they haven't been treated fairly," Long said.

In what was billed as a major economic address Thursday night, Mr. Nixon suggested that the American people should be patient with the high inflation rate and buy less.