

Ford and Meany Confer On Economy, Jobs, Pay

Washington

President Ford, seeking to get a grip on the nation's economy, turned yesterday to the problems of wages and jobs.

He met with George Meany, AFL-CIO president, and with Peter J. Brennan, the Secretary of Labor.

The President, who Monday criticized General Motors for raising its 1975 car prices by nearly ten per cent, called Meany to the White House to request the "cooperation" of the AFL-

CIO in fighting inflation, according to Ford's press secretary, J. F. terHorst.

Meany, who in recent months was one of the most unrelenting foes of President Nixon and his administration, made several recommendations to the President for relieving unemployment in hard-hit areas of the economy, particularly in the construction industry.

Mr. Ford characterized the 45-minute meeting as "very friendly and a very constructive discussion."

Meany, regarded as the chief spokesman for organized labor in this country, had not been in the White House since June 11, 1973.

At Mr. Ford's suggestion, Meany offered a series of recommendations on how the government might assist segments of the labor movement that are facing difficulties right now.

Meany mentioned the construction industry, particularly the home building industry, as one important area of trouble. According to terHorst, the labor leader told the President that the home-building sector presents not just an unemployment problem but a problem of housing for workers as well.

The press secretary did not say what remedies Meany suggested. But one AFL-CIO official said that the President was urged to ease credit for home building and buying.

TerHorst said that the President had expressed the hope that his meeting with Meany would "serve to help the Ford administration establish good relations with the AFL-CIO and with a great labor leader."

In his meeting with Brennan and other Labor Department officials, the President discussed the implementation of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, which was passed last December to provide unemployment relief through training of unskilled workers

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AP Wirephoto

President Ford and AFL-CIO president George Meany discussed the economy

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and through public employment problems.

No report of this meeting was immediately available, but the President presumably was interested in arrangements to meet the rising joblessness that is expected because of the sluggish economy.

TerHorst said that Ford will continue to castigate

publicly companies such as General Motors that he feels are failing to exercise restraint in their price policies. "The President feels so keenly about inflation that any action like that (the GM price increase) is bound to get his personal attention," TerHorst said at a regular White House news briefing.

Answering additional questions on economic poli-

cy, TerHorst told reporters that "the President's attitude is that the country has a new President. He will put a new imprint on economic policy. The people expect that. There will be a difference in policy between his administration and President Nixon's — a difference in emphasis, priorities and tools."

Continuing his effort to

reach as many sectors of the society as possible, Mr. Ford will meet with groups of governors, mayors and county officials today and tomorrow, TerHorst announced.

He said the President wants to discuss state and local problems with these leaders and to present some of the federal government's problems.

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