

AFL-CIO Building Trades

Unions Back Ford's Plan



President Ford as he arrived at San Francisco airport this morning

Subsequent clippings
on this incident
discarded.

By Jackson Rannells

AFL-CIO building trades leaders began a three-day national convention here yesterday with unemployment, energy policy and new picketing rights as their top discussion priorities.

President Ford's opening morning address to the group, in which he outlined a national energy research and development program, grooved perfectly with the first two themes.

"We have the manpower ready, willing and able" to build whatever is needed for the program, William Sidell, president of the Carpenters Union, said in an interview after the talk.

Sidell and John H. Lyons of the Ironworkers Union said government support is needed for any serious attempt to develop new energy sources and technology.

Private industry is loath to make the full commitment needed, Lyons said, because oil-producing nations can undercut new fuels simply by lowering oil prices.

"The Federal authority has to underpin any serious effort," Lyons added.

The 400 delegates at the Hyatt on Union Square on represent 17 AFL-CIO unions with 4 million members in the construction and building trades.

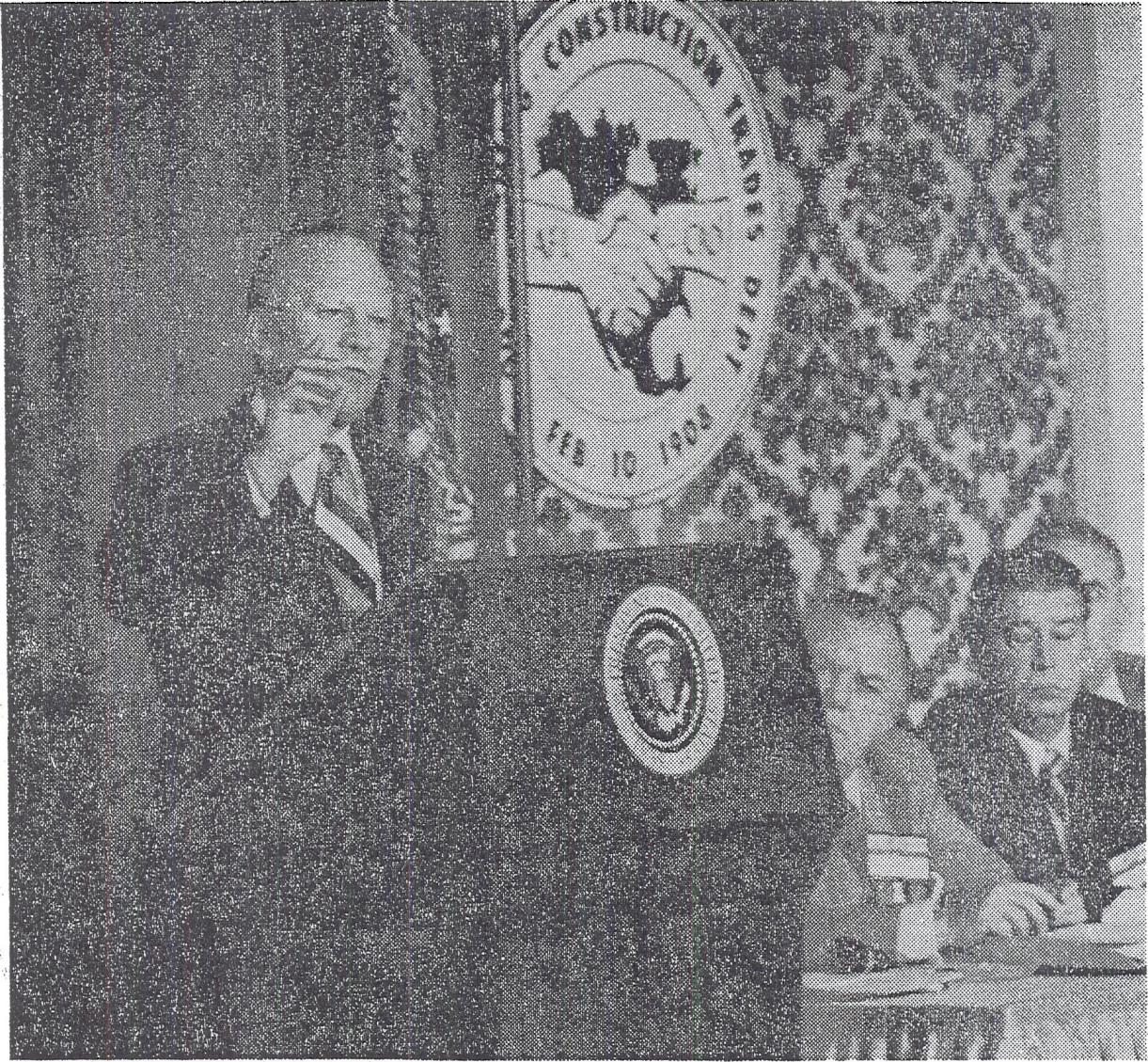
Speaker after speaker bemoaned the construction industry's particularly heavy toll under the impact of high interest rates and vetoes of housing and public works finance bills.

"No relief is in sight as long as the leadership in Washington believes that unemployment is needed to check inflation," said John F. Henning, secretary of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

James Lee, leader of the California Building and Construction Trades Council, whetted the convention's appetite for President Ford's proposal when he reminded the delegates that "energy means jobs."

Lee predicted a massive public backlash against the "small, arrogant faction" of environmental groups that as stalled or blocked dam and power plant developments.

"People will not give up their high standard of living because they are told that the spartan life is a good life," Lee told the



The President outlined a national energy research and development program to AFL-CIO delegates

applauding delegates.

State Treasurer Jesse M. Unruh echoed the theme again later when he told the convention it must help nominate a Democratic presidential candidate who understands that "clean air and

water at the price of unbuilt homes and empty bellies is worthless to all but a few."

Secretary of Labor John Dunlop will address the convention today and is expected to seek support for his proposal modify-

ing collective bargaining procedures in the construction industry.

Dunlop's proposal is considered a trade-off for a bill long sought by labor permitting construction unions to picket a general contractor who uses a subcontractor with non-union workers.