

Blistering Labor Attack on Nixon

SPChronicle

By Jackson Rannells
Chronicle Correspondent

Los Angeles

The head of the California AFL-CIO said here yesterday that President Nixon's re-election could "take us well along the road to Constitutional fascism."

John F. Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation, repeatedly told the opening session of the group's four-day convention that the Nixon administration was "corrupting" American ideals.

At one point, he even warned the some 700 labor delegates that "Adolf Hitler used the system . . . and that is how it could well come to us . . ."

NEUTRALITY

At no time did Henning mention President Nixon by name. But his comments about "the reactionary leadership in Washington" left absolutely no doubt in the minds of observers that he referred to the President.

Henning apparently was acting under the letter, if not exactly the spirit, of re-

cent admonitions by AFL-CIO president George Meany to remain neutral in the 1972 presidential campaign, for he also declined to mention Democratic candidate George McGovern by name.

But, he told the convention, "I have faith that the labor movement is committed to a democratic and progressive future."

Henning's vitriolic anti-Nixon speech was given a standing ovation by most of the delegates.

He told them that, should "the present leadership" be re-elected, labor could expect "another four years of government control of collective bargaining . . . and compulsive arbitration in the transportation industry."

'CORRUPTION'

And, Henning said, the administration could be expected to "continue corrupting the United States Supreme Court by conservative appointments."