

Meany Gives Nixon a Big Zero for '70

Washington

AFL-CIO president George Meany, who rated the Nixon Administration's first year record at zero, said yesterday the President did it again in 1970 — "The second goose egg, only bigger."

The 76-year-old labor leader in an interview, restricted his assessment to the Administration's domestic record, but he was blunt about that.

"The second year of this administration has been even worse than the first," he said. "I think the Administration has failed completely in what has been referred to as its economic game plan."

The leader of more than 13 million unionists said the persistence of high prices and high interest rates with rising unemployment was proof of the Administration's failure, but he declined to offer his own remedy.

He said the President has the power to ease the credit situation, for example, and he detected some evidence that the Administration plans to ease the tight money policy and accept some deficit financing.

Asked if the AFL-CIO would accept wage and price controls, Meany said "We're ready to go along," but only if the President himself embraced such a step and if wage restraints covered all types of income, including dividends and other non-wage sources.

Meany was almost as critical of Congress as the White House, saying while "there have been some constructive things done," the picture presented to the country by the lawmaking branch, was of "almost chaos on Capitol Hill due to their outdated rules."

He said the AFL-CIO's "number one legislative objective" in 1971 would be "enactment of a national health plan to take care of all the American people," because medical costs have risen to the point that they are "pressing on practically every family in America except the very, very wealthy and the very, very poor."

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