

# President Cuts Short Fla. Visit

SF Examiner 5\*

NOV 19 1971

Examiner News Services

BAL HARBOUR (Fla.) — President Nixon ignored the frosty reception accorded him at the AFL-CIO convention today and told the labor leaders that he was going to make Phase II of his economic program work with or without their help.

There was a titter of laughter when Nixon, who had discarded a prepared text and was speaking, as he put it, "straight from the shoulder," pronounced Phase I of his economic program a "remarkable success," and more derisive laughter when he added:

"If you don't think so, go home and ask your wives who go to grocery stores. Go home and ask others." \*

Less than an hour after addressing the 2000 labor delegates, the President cut short what was to have been a weekend in the Florida sun to return to Washington.

Press aides denied there was any crisis or that President Nixon had been annoyed by the coolness of the labor audience.

But newsmen who were near to Nixon at the time felt that he was shocked — and quite possibly angered — by a Meany gesture that followed his impromptu speech to the conventioners.

#### Call to Order

While Meany remained at the head table, Nixon walked off into the crowd of delegates to shake hands and exchange small talk.

Meany, standing by the rostrum, seemed almost amused for a time, then abruptly picked up his official gavel and called upon the convention to come to order.

Naturally, the President's appearance on the floor had created quite a stir.

Nixon shot a glance at Meany, turned and immediately left the room.

#### Unclear

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren said he was not sure that Nixon's decision to return was necessarily sudden.

He said:

"I was informed of it after he made the speech," adding that when the President made the decision "I don't know."

In his prepared speech the President said his wage and price controls would produce

## Price Gain Despite Freeze

\* WASHINGTON — (AP) — The government reported today that the cost of living rose two-tenths of one percent last month despite the price freeze.

The increase was a result of higher prices for 1972 automobiles, winter and fall clothing and shelter.

The increase was about half the average month-to-month increase that prevailed before the price freeze began Aug. 15. It compares with a three-tenths of one percent increase in August and a two-tenths of one percent increase in September.

The October increase puts the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index 3.8 percent above a year ago, the smallest 12-month change in more than three and a half years.

While prices crept upward despite the freeze, the Labor Department also said that average weekly earnings for private nonfarm jobs declined two pennies to \$129.11.

The increase in prices for October was slightly more than usual for this time of year.

After taking seasonal factors into account the Bureau of Labor Statistics the price rise at one-tenth of a percent increase —

# Labor Gives Nixon Cool Reception

—From Page 1

a "period of sustained prosperity that will repay many times over any immediate sacrifices that any segment of the American work force is called upon to make."

Nixon also dropped from his actual speech his prepared appeal for "the support of the AFL-CIO for the critical second phase of this effort to restore economic stability to this nation."

Nixon was met at the door of the hotel ballroom where he was to speak by Meany and ushered inside without fanfare.

A labor spokesman said the White House had requested a musical tribute, such as "Hail to the Chief," but "we decided not to."

"The White House wanted show business, and this is not show business," the labor spokesman added.

## Introduction

Meany gave Nixon the briefest of introductions, saying:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States."

There was light applause, since word had been passed that there were to be no demonstrations — be it booing, or thundering applause.

Ignoring the chill, Nixon told the delegates he was going to give it to them "straight from the shoulder," since that he knew despite political differences, "the majority of workers are for America and for a strong defense."

The President then quoted a statement made by Meany Thursday that "if the President of the United States doesn't want our membership on the Pay Board on our terms, he knows what he can do."

"Well, you know, President Meany is correct," Nixon said. "I know exactly what I can do — and I am going to do it."

## Excited

Nixon spoke with intensity and somewhat excitedly.

"I'm here today to ask your support for the building of a lasting peace and the

building of a new prosperity," Nixon told the big labor audience.

He said he is often asked "What is wrong with the old prosperity," and said:

"I'll tell you what is wrong — war and inflation."

Labor is angry because the President's new Pay Board has blocked retroactive wage raises. Meany and the other AFL-CIO board members have decided they would stay on the pay panel but will not cooperate with it.

The President said that before flying here from Washington, he had been asked, "Why are you going?"

"They said, 'You know a majority of those who are going to be at this great convention are against you politically and a majority are against your party.'

"I will tell you why I came here. Because I know from

experience over the past three years that when the chips are down, organized labor is for America."

Some delegates applauded.

The President spoke about his winding down the war, the drop in casualties, and how 150,000 had marched on Wall Street, in favor of his Cambodian incursion even though many editorial writers and the intellectuals were against him.

He said he strongly favors repeal of the auto excise tax and the job credit tax, which will increase American workers' competitive position with workers abroad.

But then he laid it flatly on the line.

## 'Frightening'

He said he wants labor's participation to make his new economic policy succeed, "but whether we get that or not," he warned, "it is my obligation to make this

succeed and to the extent of my powers I shall do that."

Nixon said with some heat that he knows that "frightening statements have been made from this podium" about his forthcoming trips to Peking and Moscow.

With some scorn he said they had been referred to as "political junkets" designed for him to win re-election.

"These trips are not for the next election," he said vehemently. "These trips are about the next generation."

Meany got a loud cheer and applause when, after Nixon left the hall, he told the delegates:

"We'll now proceed with Act II."

Meany later said Nixon's speech reminded him of a union negotiator who told a management bargainer that "you presented a hell of a fine case, but you had very poor material."