

# Potofsky, in Labor Split, Denounces War Policy

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Special to The New York Times

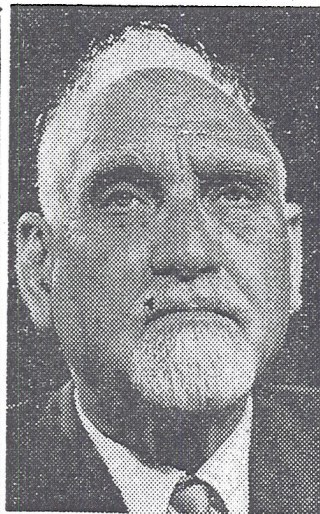
ATLANTIC CITY, May 24—  
The head of one of the nation's largest trade unions broke today with the leadership of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and condemned the Vietnam and Cambodian war policies of the Nixon Administration.

Jacob S. Potofsky, president of the 417,000-member Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, praised the United States Senators who have been seeking to cut off funds for further military operations in Cambodia.

"Let us pray that success may crown their efforts," he said in an interview on the eve of the union's 27th biennial convention, which opens here.

"Congress must exercise its constitutional responsibility of not leaving the war-making decisions to the President alone," he added.

The American presence in Cambodia has been supported by George Meany, president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., who said two



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weeks ago that he spoke for nine-tenths of the federation's 35-man Executive Council. Mr. Potofsky is a member of the council.

In opposing the federation's stand, Mr. Potofsky joined a number of labor leaders who are critical of the Cambodian decision. On the West Coast, 451 union officers last week signed newspaper advertisements opposing the move.

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Criticism of the Administration's war policies is also contained in the text of Mr. Potofsky's keynote address tomorrow before 1,500 delegates.

"Our members, like all working people and like the majority of all Americans, want peace," he says in his prepared speech. "Our members, like all working people and like the majority of all Americans, want peace. And they want peace now, without delay, without further military adventures, without more killing.

"I talk of peace now. If we do not end our involvement in Southeast Asia, which is tearing us apart, our nation and the democratic processes are in danger of dying."

Mr. Potofsky says in the speech that the Cambodian invasion is hurting chances to bring peace in the Middle East.

"A damaging consequence of the Cambodian maneuver is the definite weakening of American power to influence the situation in the Middle East," he says.

"Direct Soviet intervention  
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in the Middle East has already stimulated Egyptian offensive action along the Suez Canal. Does anyone believe that America would have sat idly by in the face of Soviet intervention in the Middle East if America were not so deeply sunk in the Vietnam quagmire?"

Mr. Potofsky says in the speech that the war in Southeast Asia has done "great damage to the spirit of America."

"A climate of fear has descended upon our land," he says. "The war has set men against each other. It has caused division between the people and their Government. It has aroused suspicions and false accusations. It has brought back some of the McCarthyism era—an evil which we all hoped would never reappear."