## Labor Leaders Denounce Wage Action

## By DAMON STETSON

BAL HARBOUR, Fla., Feb. 33—Leaders of building trades unions said today that Presi-dent Nixon's suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act would have a negligible effect in curbing in-flation but might adversely af-fect the wages paid nonunion workers. George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Indus-trial Organizations, described the President's action as "an open invitation to unscrupulous employers to exploit workers by competitive undermining of fair wages and labor stand-ards." He predicted that the move would have no real ef-fect on halting inflation. The presidents of several major construction unions who have been meeting here dis-cussed Mr. Nixon's action and its significance at a news con-ference late today. In general, they appeared relieved that the President had not imposed a

cussed Mr. Nixon's action and its significance at a news con-ference late today. In general, they appeared relieved that the President had not imposed a ference and heartened by wage freeze and heartened by his willingness to let the indus-

He noted that union workers would continue to receive the wages that their unions have negotiated for them despite the suspension. But nonunion work-ers, he said, won't have any-one to protect them one to protect them.

A nonunion contractor, Mr. ready built into caloting con-Lyons said, may make a bid on the basis of union rates that are "prevailing" in the area if iddn't go further," Mr. Nau-mann said. "What this means union contractor. But if the nonunion contractor is success-will have an advantage over those operating under a labor A nonunion contractor, Mr. union contractor. But if the Is that the nonunion contractor nonunion contractor is success-ful in his bid, Mr. Lyons con-tinued, he will not have to pay the union or prevailing rates to his nonunion workers. Thus, a contractor in this situation might make a bigger profit than

flationary wage increases.

W. E. Naumann, chaiman of the M. M. Sundt Construction Company of Tucson, Ariz., said a wage freeze was needed to avoid the wage increases al-ready built into existing con-tracts

he would have made prior to land, Ore., an immediate past the suspension. president of the Associated BAL HARBOUR, Fla., Feb. 33-Leaders of building trades described the President's action BAL HARBOUR, Fla., Feb. 33-Leaders of building trades described the President's action BAL HARBOUR, Fla., Feb.

The Associated General Con-tractors of America called the President's action "disappointwage freeze and heartened by his willingness to let the industry make further attempts on its own to resolve such problems as chronic instability, frequent strikes and excessive wage increases.
Protecting Wage Scales
The building trades leaders said, however, that they did not consider the Davis-Bacon Act an inflationary measure but one that protected wage standards. John H. Lyons president of the order would help nonunion of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, said that the unions intended to "do all we can' to prevent that from happening in New York City. He was questioned by Gabe pressman in a taped interview of the President's company's Sixth Hour News.
Stronger Action Urged Contractors seemed generalities effect on workers could be "megligible" but that its effect on workers could be "megligible" but that the innon workers would continue to receive the wages that their unions have
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