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The Confrontation 370 two takes 570
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MIAMI BEACH, Fla. AP - President Nixon walked smiling, if a trifle nervous, Friday into a hostile AFL-CIO convention and left after his speech in apparent shock and anger at his cold reception and abrupt dismissal.

In Washington, White House press aide Gerald Warren said Nixon appreciated the opportunity to address the labor delegates who are bitterly opposed to his wage controls. But another presidential aide said privately Nixon was treated with "studied contempt" by AFL-CIO officials.

There were no jeers or boos, but applause was scant. Some derisive titters from the delegates greeted Nixon's defense of his wage-price controls.

The reception appeared to rattle Nixon, and he made two major slips of the tongue—once calling Vice President Spiro T. Agnew "President Agnew," and later, talking on how hard his own father had worked, said "I was proud of him to the day I died."

Both White House and AFL-CIO staffs, which put out separate transcripts, corrected the second error to "the day he died," but the labor transcript left in the reference to "President Agnew."

There was no "Hail To The Chief," the traditional presidential arrival greeting, from the union musicians, and AFL-CIO officials refused a White House request that Nixon be announced over the loudspeaker as he entered the hall.

But what appeared most to upset Nixon was his treatment as he left the speakers' podium.

There was no escort, and as Nixon left the platform alone he stopped to shake hands with some labor delegates.

Meany watched for a moment from the podium and then called the convention to order with Nixon still on the floor chatting with the delegates. The President shot him a glance and stalked away.

Reporters near Nixon said he seemed shocked, even agnered, as he turned and left the hall.

Meany then drew gales of laughter when he told the convention: "We will now proceed with Act II." Nixon was gone by then.

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Meany, referring later to a time he was "pounding the table and yelling" during a labor dispute with an employer, and someone told him "that's a hell of a fine case, but very ptor material."

Nixon threw away his prepared remarks and spoke off the cuff, saying Secretary of Labor J. D. Hodgson would talk later about the program the Nixon administration has enacted for labor.

"Give them the laundry list," he was overheard to say to Hodgson as the two spoke outside the convention hall. The President apparently referred to his prepared speech. However, Hodgson did not make his scheduled speech, cancelling at the last moment.

Nixon reportedly had planned to fly to the Bahamas after the speech for a weekend rest, but returned immediately to Washington where a White House aide denied the change had anything to do with his reception at the AFL-CIO convention.

As Nixon flew to Washington aboard Air Force One, the AFL-CIO delegates voted Meany a 28 per cent salary increase—well above the 5.5 ceiling recommended by the President's Pay Board.

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