

A.F.L.-C.I.O. Opposes Nixon Re-election

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (UPI)—The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations said today that it would oppose President Nixon's re-election bid this year, regardless of whom the Democrats nominated.

This marked the first time that the 13.6-million-member labor federation had said that it would work to defeat Mr. Nixon for a second term, although its previous official statements had made it clear the organization would again support the Democratic Presidential ticket this year.

"The A.F.L.-C.I.O. has set as its primary political goal in 1972 the defeat of Richard Nixon's bid for re-election," Alexander E. Barkan, who directs political and campaign fund raising and dispensing for the federation, wrote in the current issue of The A.F.L.-C.I.O. News.

And Andrew J. Biemiller, chief lobbyist for the federation, said in a radio interview, "The labor movement will be out working very hard to elect a new President of the United States. There's no question on that score.

"Overall, we think the President is not doing a very good job on the economy, and that is why you find the labor movement opposing the President," Mr. Biemiller said.

Has Sought Labor Backing

Mr. Nixon has made a concerted effort in his three years in office to gain the support of labor leaders, but he has failed except with the 2 million-member teamsters union, the largest in the nation, which is not a member of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.

George Meany, president of the labor federation; normally does not take sides in the Presidential race until after the Democrats and Republicans have nominated their candidates. Closing out the option this early on President Nixon emphasizes the depth of the break between the President and the labor movement.

The A.F.L.-C.I.O. plans to remain neutral as the various Democratic candidates vie for the nomination. However, the federation plans to put on a drive for as big a voice as possible in the selection of delegates to the nominating convention to make sure labor is represented.

Mr. Barkan, director of the federation's Committee on Political Education, said Mr. Nixon's defeat was only half the job, and that workers must ensure election of a "friendly Congress which can work with a progressive President to

meet the mounting problems that confront our nation."

In another development, Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic National Chairman, challenged Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama to prove his loyalty to the Democratic party by swearing to support the 1972 Democratic nominee. Mr. Wallace has proclaimed himself to be a serious candidate for the Democratic nomination after having run as a third-party candidate in 1968.

Mr. O'Brien said it was only fair to ask Mr. Wallace to take the same pledge required of all delegates to the Democratic national convention next July—not to campaign publicly for any candidate other than the party's official nominee.

Mr. O'Brien's statement was made in a telegram responding

to a request from Mr. Wallace for convention accommodations for himself and delegates pledged to him.

Shapp Endorses Muskie

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 25 (UPI)—Gov. Milton J. Shapp of Pennsylvania endorsed Senator Edmund J. Muskie today for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The Maine Democrat, who flew into this state capital for a news conference with Mr. Shapp, said he would call upon the Governor to do some campaigning for him.

"The evidence confirms that Ed Muskie is the candidate that most party leaders, office holders and rank and file Democrats wish to head the ticket," Governor Shapp said.