

AFL-CIO Resolution Asks Nixon Resignation

By Peter Milius
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The AFL-CIO's convention in Miami Beach yesterday shouted through by voice vote a resolution calling on President Nixon to resign, and on the House of Representatives to impeach him "forthwith" if he doesn't.

The 1,600 delegates and alternates, representing some 13.6 million union members, rose to their feet and applauded as the resolution sent to the floor by the federation's Executive Council was read by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

The resolution also calls upon Congress to shelve at least for now the President's nomination of House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford

(R-Mich) to be Vice President.

"Clearly a President who has placed himself on the brink of impeachment should not be allowed to name his successor until the charges against him have been disposed of satisfactorily," the resolution said.

As the AFL-CIO acted in Florida, presidents of two non-AFL-CIO unions—Leonard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers and Arnold Miller of the United Mine Workers—also called upon Mr. Nixon to resign on the House to impeach him.

"The shocking events of the past weekend mandate such action," Woodcock said.

See UNIONS, A4, Col. 1

UNIONS, From A1

"Mr. Nixon has broken faith with the Constitution, the Congress and the people. . . . We cannot ask the political questions now. It is too late. . . . It is time to ask the hard legal and moral questions. It is time to put these matters to trial before the Congress."

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), a member of the Senate Watergate committee and a speaker at the AFL-CIO's convention, called upon Mr. Nixon "to place our national interest and our national welfare above all other concerns and to resign."

"Like many of you," he told the delegates, "I have sadly concluded that President Nixon can no longer effectively lead our nation."

He added later that Congress "should seriously consider impeachment" if the President does not resign, but said he does not think there are enough votes in Congress to impeach the President at this point.

Impeachment — akin to indictment — requires a majority vote in the House. Conviction — removal from

office — requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

Not long after Inouye spoke, Labor Secretary Peter J. Brennan issued a statement saying "the President deserves our continued support in carrying out his duties and our prayers that he will make the right decisions concerning not only the Watergate affair and the Middle East situation but the problems of inflation here at home."

"I do not think we should be pushed into a state of panic by those who have been seeking the President's scalp for some time now," Brennan said. He did not say whom he had in mind.

An aide to Meany said that copies of the AFL-CIO's resolution will be delivered to every member of Congress today, to be followed by the federation's veteran corps of lobbyists. "We don't adopt these things just to hear the sound of our own voice," he said. "Our people will be up there."

"The first thing will be Ford," he said, meaning the effort to persuade Congress to sidetrack the Michigan congressman's nomination as Vice President, which requires the approval of two-

thirds of both the House and Senate.

The Executive Council, made up of Meany, AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Lane Kirkland and the presidents of 33 of the federation's 113 member unions, approved the resolution yesterday morning. Thirty-one council members were present, and only one, Paul Hall of the Seafarers, voted not to take the action.

Included among those who voted yes were the presidents of four construction unions and one maritime union who endorsed Mr. Nixon in last year's election.

They are John H. Lyons of the Ironworkers, Martin J. Ward of the Plumbers, Hunter P. Wharton of the Operating Engineers, Peter Fosco of the Laborers and Thomas W. Gleason of the International Longshoremen's Association.

The AFL-CIO, at Meany's behest, stayed neutral in the 1972 presidential election, the first time since its creation in 1955 that it did not support the Democratic presidential nominee.

Some individual AFL-CIO unions supported the Democratic nominee, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.). Others

supporter Mr. Nixon. The construction and the maritime unions, generally thought of as the most conservative in the AFL-CIO, were the heart of Mr. Nixon's strength.

After the election Mr. Nixon chose Brennan, who was president of the New York City and New York state building and construction trades councils, as his Secretary of Labor.

The AFL-CIO was adamant in its opposition to Mr. Nixon before the Democrats nominated McGovern in July of last year. After last November's election, there was a seeming thaw in the relationship between the two sides. More recently, however, the federation has stepped up its attacks on Mr. Nixon. Yesterday's resolution shattered all lingering thought of accommodation.

"We believe the American people have had enough," the resolution said. "More than enough."

"Mr. Nixon's determination to prevent judicial examination of his tapes no matter what the cost . . . can only further erode public confidence," the AFL-CIO said. "When the President appears fearful of fac-

ing a Supreme Court composed in large measure of his own appointees the public can scarcely resist the darkest speculation.

"We therefore call upon Richard Nixon, president of the United States, to resign . . . in the interest of preserving our democratic system of government, which requires a relationship of trust and candor between the people and their political leaders," and "in the interest of restoring a fully functioning government, which his administration is too deeply in disarray to provide."

AFL-CIO Now Backs Rights Amendment

MIAMI BEACH, Oct. 22 (AP) — The AFL-CIO reversed its position today and endorsed a resolution calling for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment barring sex discrimination on the job and elsewhere.

Previous opposition by organized labor is said to have been a factor in the amendment's defeat in a number of industrialized states. Thirty states have approved the amendment so far, with eight more states needed for adoption.