

# AFL-CIO Presses Demand for

The AFL-CIO yesterday continued to press for President Nixon's impeachment, charging that he committed an impeachable offense in creating the White House "plumbers" unit.

The giant labor federation branded the plumbers a "special and personal secret police, answerable only to the White House and operating totally outside the constraints of the law."

The charge came in the federation's second weekly statement detailing an earlier 19-point bill of particulars against the President.

The White House has said the so-called plumbers unit was created to investigate and plug leaks of national security secrets. In September, 1971, a plumbers team burglarized

the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in California.

"The plumbers committed this crime with a clear knowledge that it was a crime," the AFL-CIO said. "They committed this crime under the clear impression that they were ordered to do so by the President of the United States."

"Richard M. Nixon has committed an impeachable offense by creating a special and personal secret police, by hiding its illegal activities behind 'national security,' and by obstructing justice in the name of 'national security,'" the federation said.

The federation has called on each union member to write his congressman urging the President's impeachment.

The organization charged that Mr. Nixon "obstructed justice by personally ordering that evidence of the plumbers'

involvement in the Ellsberg case burglary be kept from the judge presiding over the Ellsberg trial."

"He has sought to preclude further revelations of the plumbers' activities by classifying these as national security matters," the federation said.

Ken W. Clawson, the White House deputy director of communications, said earlier this month that the federation's call for impeachment was "ill-conceived and can only result in harming the nation at home and abroad."

Meanwhile, Tennessee Gov. Winfield Dunn, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, said Mr. Nixon's failure to warn GOP governors of an 18-minute gap in a crucial Watergate tape further damaged his credibility.

## Impeachment

Tuesday the President met with the Republican governors in Memphis, assuring them that he was aware of no new bombshells in the Watergate case.

But on Wednesday White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt informed U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica that an 18-minute segment of taped conversation between the President and former aide H. R. (Bob) Haldeman is blank.

The conversation was considered important because it occurred only three days after the break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters here.

"I'm not suggesting that there has been tampering," Dunn said. "But I think it would be a terrible blow to the loss of the confidence of

the people. It's discouraged me to a degree."

Buzhardt said Wednesday he did not think the 18-minute gap in the tape could be considered a bombshell.

But Dunn said, "I simply cannot agree that this is not seriously important. I think I, if I had been with the governors in the President's position I might want to tell them about the revelation."

"I came out of there assured that we've bottomed out and now I'm not sure that we have bottomed out because this revelation does call for some further explanation," Dunn said.

Buzhardt said he believed the President was told of the gap shortly after it was discovered on Nov. 14, but he said he was not sure that Mr. Nixon was aware that the gap existed in one of the subpoenaed tapes.