

Union Poll Finds Mood Of Distrust

Bal Harbor, Fla.

Mounting concern over high prices, a desire to see President Nixon out of the White House and a belief that American political institutions are rigged to the benefit of big corporations have produced a mood of "dangerous disenchantment and disillusionment" among labor union members, leaders of the influential International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers reported yesterday.

Floyd Smith, president of the 900,000-member union, released findings of a questionnaire-poll sent to every 50th member of his union, showing that 49 per cent would like to see the President resign and another 23 per cent favor his impeachment.

The poll also showed 71 per cent in opposition to the continuance of wage and price controls when existing congressional authority for the economic stabilization program expires on April 30.

Asked about the effectiveness of the program, 61 per cent said it has slowed down wage increases but not price increases; 27 per cent said that it has been worse than nothing, in some cases contributing to higher prices.

Nearly 63 per cent replied negatively when asked if they think the government is handling the fuel shortage fairly. Yet slightly less than 20 per cent favor gas rationing. About one in five are now riding car pools to work, and 75 per cent report that they cannot get to work by bus or other public transportation. One out of five reported layoffs in their shops as a result of oil or power shortages.

"Never before have I known machinists and mechanics to be so distrustful of so many leaders of our government in both the executive and legislative branches," Smith said.

"They are becoming convinced that their government is rigged for the benefit of the big corporations and the richest families. As members of the middle class, union members resent such discrimination as both unfair and un-American. Unless Congress can develop more backbone, this disenchantment could become dangerous."