

A.F.L.-C.I.O. Council, by Vote of 31-1, Calls Impeach

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BAL HARBOUR, Fla., Feb. 18 — The A.F.L.-C.I.O. renewed today its call for the impeachment of President Nixon, saying that an impeachment trial was "the only way the American people can get at the truth."

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, in the opening session of its meeting here, passed a new impeachment resolution accusing the President of "refusing to level with the American people" and asserting that the nation had had enough of

"deception, denials and defiance" about Mr. Nixon's role in the Watergate scandals.

In its resolution, which was passed with only one of the council's 32 members dissenting, the federation accused the President of deliberately dragging out the Watergate investigations by refusing to provide evidence to Congress, the special Watergate prosecutor and the American public. Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers International Union, voted against the impeachment resolution as he had done last fall at the federation's convention here.

At a news conference today,

George Meany, president of the labor federation, noted that Vice President Ford had accused the A.F.L.-C.I.O. of seeking to drag out the Watergate investigations.

"But we didn't hire new lawyers at the White House," Mr. Meany said. "We didn't hire tape experts or anyone who is good at tape erasures. We are not responsible for the White House plumbers' unit."

We have enough trouble with our own plumbers," commented the labor leader, who came out of the plumbers union in New York City.

Today's resolution, asserting that "no President in history

has been so widely distrusted by his fellow citizens," said that an impeachment trial by the Senate and presided over by the Chief Justice, was "the only way for the President to get his day in court."

At his news conference, Mr. Meany described his meeting last week with Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, whom the labor leader had called, in the past, a "bigot." The meeting, requested by Mr. Wallace, was the first between the two men.

Mr. Meany said that "politics" was not discussed but that the conversation was largely about issues such as taxes, pensions and Social Security. Mr.

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ment Trial 'Only Way' to 'Get at Truth'

Meany said that he found himself largely "in the same ball park" with Governor Wallace on these issues.

Asked if he still considered the Governor a racist, Mr. Meany replied that his information was that "the fellow has mellowed."

Although Mr. Meany denied any discussion of politics with Governor Wallace, their meeting was regarded by some labor officials here as politically significant in view of the efforts by the A.F.L.-C.I.O. to regain its influence in the Democratic party. One official commented that Governor Wallace might well hold the balance of

power in the party now.

Mr. Meany also disclosed that he had met recently with Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, whom he had helped defeat in the 1972 Presidential election by keeping the labor federation neutral.

Mr. Meany also expressed his opinion today on a wide range of subjects, including the following:

On the energy crisis: "I've never seen such a mess in all my years in Washington."

On the economy: "We've already reached the recession point in my book . . . A recession is when your neighbor is

out of work. A depression is when you are out of work."

On restrictions placed on James R. Hoffa, former teamsters union president, forbidding him to engage in union activities as a condition of his being released from prison: "I think Hoffa should be allowed to enter union activities if the courts so decide."

On wage and price controls: "I don't favor the extension of the Economic Stabilization Act."

On expectations of joblessness over the next year: "Unemployment will go over 6 per cent, maybe to 6.5 per cent."