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THE WHITE HOUSE  
• WASHINGTON

Mr. Buchen:

This is the  
format to be  
used for  
your memo  
concerning  
~~George Meany's~~  
mtg with the  
President

## SUGGESTED FORMAT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### CLASSIFICATION

(When Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Meeting)

### MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILE

FROM: (Name of Staff Member or Person  
making report)

SUBJECT: Meeting with (Full Name of Individual  
and Title) on (Day), (Month) (Date),  
(Year) at (Time) (a.m./p.m.)

PARTICIPANTS: (List all Participants)  
(List all Participants)  
(etc.)

(Text).....

(Text).....

(Text).....

-----  
**NOTE:**

The object is to capture some of the color and mood of the occasion --  
not to log a verbatim transcript of the comments<sup>only</sup>.

Forward original only -- no copies.  
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## SUGGESTED FORMAT

### CLASSIFICATION

(When Applicable)

LABOR

✓ I. W. ABEL

-- President, United Steelworkers of America

✓ FRANK FITZSIMMONS ✓

-- General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America

✓ PAUL HALL ✓

-- President, Seafarers' International Union of North America

✓ GEORGE MEANY

-- President, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

✓ LEONARD WOODCOCK ✓

-- President, International Union of United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America

? CLYDE WEBBER

-- American Federation of Government Employees

*Independent unions*



February 14, 1973

Friday, February 16, 1973

## The Oval Office

## I. PURPOSE

## II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- ### III. TALKING POINTS

- etc.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY


WASHINGTON

August 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

PETER J. BRENNAN 

Per your request, I am forwarding briefing papers on the labor representatives that the President wants to bring in for meetings. If you need anything further, or we can be of assistance in any way, please call.

The briefing paper on George Meany also contains a transcript of a press conference which he held the first week in August which might give a little more insight into his thinking.

Meeting with the President

8/13/74 -- 12:00 noon

GEORGE MEANY  
PRESIDENT, AFL-CIO



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: KEN COLE  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GEORGE MEANY

You may wish to raise with George Meany the subject of a possible national coal strike. The current United Mine Workers of America contract expires on November 12. Negotiations may begin as early as August 12 but your labor advisers, principally Bill Usery, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, conclude that a strike is nearly inevitable.

Arnold Miller has announced that the United Mine Workers will conduct a memorial shut-down next week beginning August 19 and running through August 23. This will dramatize the position of the mine workers and to draw down coal inventories.

Although the AFL-CIO does not have particularly close ties with the United Mine Workers, George Meany's position will be a critical factor in determining the reaction to the use of Taft-Hartly if this becomes necessary and the success of any legislative remedies if Taft-Hartly fails.

One serious difficulty is that Meany and Secretary Brennan do not get along at all. Further, we might have difficulty in using Bill Usery to provide this link with the AFL-CIO because it could undercut his position as the impartial mediator.

I recommend that you raise the coal strike subject with George Meany and seek his advice on what actions the government should be considering both in terms of the labor situation and in terms of protecting the national interest.

If the question comes up as to who in your Administration will be the point of contact with the AFL-CIO, I recommend that you do not make any firm commitment at this time but rather seek Meany's advice.

8/12/74

4:25

Mr. Buchen:

Warren Rustand advises you are to sit in on the meeting with the President and George Meany tomorrow (8/13) at 12 noon.

I have cleared Mr. Meany for the meeting.

Dave Hoopes asked for a briefing paper ----- see attached.

They need it by 6:30 tonight.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1974

MEETING WITH GEORGE MEANY

Tuesday, August 13, 1974

12:00 noon (30 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Philip W. Buchen

*P.W.B.*

I. PURPOSE

Meeting follows your interest for having it as expressed to Secretary Brennan. He knows you are to hold this meeting without his presence. Three other key labor leaders have been advised that you will, within a week or so, meet with them.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: See attached information supplied by Secretary Brennan. (Tab A.)
- B. Participants: George Meany and Philip W. Buchen
- C. Press Plan: Press photo opportunity. Meeting to be announced at the 11:00 a.m. press briefing.

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. Favorable public comments made by Mr. Meany concerning your advancement to the Office of President (see attached Detroit News story). (Tab B)
- 2. His help and that of his colleagues in support of needed defense legislation.
- 3. Your desire to hear of his concerns for:
  - (a) The economic situation and the critical inflation problem.



- (b) Uniting the people of the country to gain wide support for initiatives which need to be taken to deal with vital current problems.
- (c) U. S. foreign relations, particularly as they bear on the future of free trade unionism in other countries.
- (d) Relationships between organized labor and the Department of Labor, as well as other government departments and executive agencies.





## GEORGE MEANY, President, AFL-CIO

George Meany, a trade union official for more than a half-century, has been president of the AFL-CIO since its merger in 1955. He has been reelected without opposition since. Mr. Meany will be 80 years old on August 16, 1974. He established outstanding record of public service. He was twice named by President Eisenhower as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. In recent years, he has served as a member of the President's Productivity Commission, the President's Commission on Industrial Peace and the Board of COMSAT, among other important public bodies. He was a recipient in 1963 of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award.

### AFL-CIO

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is a voluntary federation of 110 national and international unions. As of January 1, 1974, membership totaled 13,600,000. Major unions not affiliated with AFL-CIO are the Teamsters, the Auto Workers and the Mine Workers.

### ISSUES

Following is Mr. Meany's position on various major issues:

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Opposed to detente and "the giving away of American technology, American resources and American jobs." Supported President Nixon on Vietnam. Vigorously anti-communist. Believes any accommodation benefits communists.

#### ECONOMY

Blames Administration's "one sided wage-price controls", tight money and high interest rate policies, and export of farm products and crude materials (especially to communist countries) as cause of inflation and unemployment. Singles out high interest rates as greatest contributing factor. Puts much of blame for situation on policies of Arthur Burns. Supports greater government spending, more public service jobs, increased minimum wage, profit curbs and higher tariffs as means to cut unemployment and revive economy.

## POLITICAL

Remained "neutral" in 1972 primarily because of dislike of McGovern and support of Vietnam policy of Nixon. Has strongly opposed Nixon foreign and economic policies as weakening country and causing inflation and unemployment. Called for Nixon's impeachment or resignation. Calls for election of a "veto proof" Congress this year with aim to pass social legislation sought by AFL-CIO. Appears now to support Senator Jackson as democratic candidate in 1976.

## SPECIAL ISSUES

Concerned over implication in memorandum of former Assistant Labor Secretary that political considerations were entering enforcement of occupational safety and health laws. No evidence of any efforts to this affect found--beyond memorandum--and enforcement today clearly being conducted on behalf of workers.

Supports United Farm Workers in organizing drive against Teamsters. Probably more anti-teamsters than pro United Farm Workers.

Opposed to Jimmy Hoffa as a labor leader but believes parole restrictions are unusual and that Hoffa should not be barred from attempting a comeback, which he hopes would be unsuccessful.

## PRESIDENT FORD

At August 5 press conference, Meany called for Nixon's resignation as solution to economic problems and said of then Vice President Ford: "I have confidence in his integrity. And I think most of the American people would be willing to chip in and try to help us get over this problem which would surely ensue if the President is convicted. I think there would be a certain amount of national unity displayed and I think that Vice President Ford, if he becomes President, would have that kind of support. And I am sure that at least he would have the support of the trade union movement insofar as we could consistently support him in view of our problems and our policies."

"Vice President Ford is a conservative, you know, but we have lived in this country with conservatives before and the conservative with integrity is far better than what we have today in the White House."

(Vice President Ford) is very conservative in his attitude. He never introduced a bill in 25 years in the House of Representatives under his own name but, you see, he is the only Vice President we have."

The AFL-CIO "Congressional Scorecard" lists President Ford voting "right" in labor's view 19 times during his 25-year congressional service and "wrong" 109 times.



*B*



Detroit News

Aug 9, 1974

...speech on television in his  
...the  
...people who had dealt with him in  
...days, had described Mr. Nixon, at what  
...have been a time of great anguish to him  
...to his family, as serene and self-controlled,

defeated for the presidency of the United States  
did not hear what they had expected.

"I regret deeply any injuries that may have  
been done in the course of the events that led to  
this decision," Mr. Nixon said. "I would say  
only that if some of my judgments were wrong,

## Labor leaders support Ford

By JACK CRELLIN  
News Labor Editor

Despite his conservative background, Gerald R. Ford, who succeeds Richard M. Nixon as president today, has the distinction of having the full support of almost every segment of organized labor.

Labor leaders, almost unanimously, like what they call Mr. Ford's "honesty and integrity."

This includes UAW President Leonard Woodcock, AFL-CIO President George Meany and former Teamsters President James R. Hoffa.

Woodcock, after hearing Mr. Nixon's address last night, said:

"Mr. Nixon's resignation comes as the nation's economic and political troubles are fast worsening.

"It is clear that those problems must be answered and turned around.

"Obviously, the UAW will cooperate with the new Ford administration in any effort it would take to correct the enormous economic and moral difficulties the nation faces."

Teamsters President Frank E. Fitzsimmons, an ardent backer of Mr. Nixon, was unavailable for comment last night. His office reported he was "out of town."

In Detroit, Hoffa said he sympathized with Mr. Nixon over the agonizing decision he had to make.

Meany, a frequent critic of Mr. Nixon, said in a telegram to Ford:

"On behalf of the AFL-CIO I pledge to you all possible support in meeting the grave and serious problem the nation faces."

Earlier this week, Meany had voiced his unqualified belief in Mr. Ford's integrity.

"I think there would be a certain amount of national unity displayed and I think that Vice-President Ford, if he becomes president, would have that kind of support.

"And I am sure that at least he would have the support of the trade union movement insofar as we could consistently support him in view of our problems and policies."

I.W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers union, said it was his "fervent hope that under President Ford we will get on with the business of meeting the many challenges confronting America and the people."

But Meany probably summed up the feelings of most labor leaders a few days ago when he said:

"Vice-President Ford is a conservative, you know, but we have lived in this country with conservatives before and the conservative with integrity is far better than what we have in the White House today."

## Iron ore pact reached

DULUTH — (AP) — Part of the strike of the United Steelworkers of America (USW) against northern Minnesota iron ore mining and processing firms ended last night.

A joint statement said a three-year contract was agreed to between the USW and Pickands-Mather & Co. of Cleveland, managing agents for the Erie Mining Co. of Hoyt Lakes, Minn., and the Hibbing Taconite Co.



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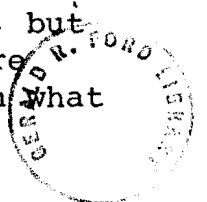
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"Vice President Ford is a conservative, you know, but we have lived in this country with conservatives before and the conservative with integrity is far better than what we have today in the White House.

...



(Vice President Ford) is very conservative in his attitude. He never introduced a bill in 25 years in the House of Representatives under his own name but, you see, he is the only Vice President we have."

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NEWS  
NEWS

from the

AFL-CIO



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

(202) 637-5010

For Release:

August 8, 1974

Attached are transcripts of the press conferences held by AFL-CIO President George Meany on Monday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 6, 1974 at the regular meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.



## PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1974 -- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MEANY: Before getting into any questions that you may have, I would like to announce that I have sitting along side of me Brother Meshel, General Secretary of Histadrut, which is the Israeli Federation of Labor. Brother Meshel appeared before the Executive Council this morning and discussed some of the problems -- economic and military facing the Israeli people today. And, of course, we indicated to him that we are continuing to support Histadrut and to support Israel in its efforts to stay alive in the Middle East.

So Brother Meshel will be here and at the conclusion of my portion of the press conference he will be available for any questions that you may want to ask him about the situation in Israel.

Now, you have a number of statements on the economy, high interest rates, collective bargaining and the economy, housing and, of course, a statement on Israel and a statement on the farm workers. And, also a statement on our attitude on the impeachment question.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, have you been invited to the White House to discuss inflation and if the answer is "no" would you go if you were invited?

MEANY: Oh, yes. I have not been invited to the White House to discuss the question of inflation. I have talked to Mr. Rush, who is the President's chief economic advisor, at the present time, and I have indicated that labor in this country is, as it has always been, involved, concerned, affected by inflation. In fact, we feel that the millions of people that we represent are certainly among the first victims of inflation. And, we are ready to cooperate with the Administration in any viable plan, any program that will help to solve this problem.

I have made it quite clear to Mr. Rush that we are not prepared to become part of an Administration charade of some kind or Administration publicity stunt, which seems to have been the Administration's responses to all of these problems for the past several years. Mr. Herb Stein would make a speech or McCracken, when he was there, would make a speech. Arthur Burns would make a speech, the President would make a speech but there was no substance to the program. We got a lot of false predictions, a lot of false promises. We were told that we now could see the light at the end of the tunnel. We were told that last quarter was bad; this quarter was bad; this quarter was going to be good; inflation rate is going to be down next December to where it was last January and so on and so forth. And none of this panned out.

I made it quite clear to Mr. Rush that we would not take part in any publicity stunts or anything that was designed solely to indicate that the President was concerned with this problem. If, however, they had a program -- a program that made sense -- that we would cooperate in every possible way to do what we could to meet this particular problem.

REPORTER: Do you have any suggestions, Sir?

MEANY: We have a long, long list of suggestions that we have made. Up to now they have received very little attention from the Administration and actually as of the moment they have no plan. I think cutting down the high interest rate would help. I don't know anything that is more inflationary than high interest rates because high interest rates go into business expansion; they go into the cost of operating and they go into every phase of economic life. Eventually, high interest rates are paid for by the consumer.

I think it would help the situation if our tax structure was readjusted. I think the exorbitant profits -- these companies getting two or three hundred percent in profits -- also have an impact on the problem. But, in the final analysis, I think it is up to the Administration that has come up with this disastrous policy -- inaugurated in February 1969 -- to come up with a viable plan. I think it would be unfair to take the housewife who is paying through the nose -- who is at the supermarket checkout counter -- and say to her "what are you complaining about. Do you have a plan?"

This is what we elect Congress for. This is what we elect Senators for. And, pardon the expression, this is what we elect our President for.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, last week you said that the American public hasn't any confidence in our President.

MEANY: I think that was the greatest understatement I've ever made.

REPORTER: Do you think we would be better off with Vice President Ford fighting inflation and other things?

MEANY: Well, I wouldn't make any prediction on what Mr. Ford's policies would be. When you say "lack of confidence, lack of credibility." I think Ford would be an improvement because there would be a certain confidence in his integrity that we have evidently lost with the present occupant of the White House.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you have confidence in Vice President Ford should he become President?

MEANY: I have confidence in his integrity. And I think most of the American people would be willing to chip in and try to help get us over this problem which would surely ensue if the President is convicted. I think there would be a certain amount of national unity displayed and I think that Vice President Ford, if he becomes President, would have that kind of support. And I am sure that at least he would have the support of the trade union movement insofar as we could consistently support him in view of our problem and our policies.

Vice President Ford is a conservative, you know but we have lived in this country with conservatives before and the conservative with integrity is far better than what we have today in the White House.

I don't know whether President Nixon is conservative or radical or what he is and I'm sure that he himself doesn't know.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, in your opinion, could there be a quicker solution to the economic problems if the President resigned?

MEANY: Yes. And I don't agree with those who say that there is something undemocratic about resigning or that resigning is a terrible thing. Resigning resolved the Spiro problem and nobody seemed to get excited. I have not heard anyone say that the country is in very, very bad shape because Spiro resigned and if the President resigned, I don't think it would be as shocking to the country.

REPORTER: If the President were to resign, would you favor granting him immunity?

MEANY: The question of granting him immunity is something that has been spoken about -- I would say I would have no interest in seeing the President have any further troubles. All I want of the President is to just go away.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you see any relationship between the President's problems and the economy?

MEANY: There is a relationship between the President's scrambling to maintain himself in office and the economy itself. Now, I am not a financial expert. I'm not an expert in the stock market but I can read the figures. The stock market is certainly reacting to the President's lack of leadership. It is reacting specifically to tight money, high interest rates.

The thing that I can't understand is after you go five years down one road and you go down, down, down into economic disaster that you still maintain the same theory that started you down the road -- restricted credit, tight money, high interest rates, high unemployment.

This is Arthur Burns' philosophy enunciated in February 1969. We weren't doing too badly then. We had a little over 4% inflation rate and now we have an almost 12% inflation now. We still had 5-3/4%, 5 1/2% interest. A person in the middle income bracket could buy a home. A person in the \$25,000-a-year class can't buy a home in America today unless he is willing to go down into the older portions of our cities.

In view of this absolute economic disaster, I can't understand Arthur Burns, who is the architect, refusing to change his attitudes.

He is still where he was in February 1969. Still going down the road -- restricted credit, tight money. Everything is determined by money and the cost of money and until this changes I think we are going to continue to go down the road to further economic trouble.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, the President, the Administration suggested that the problem is as real as you say but they also say that there is a world-wide inflation and that the problem here in the United States is no different than in any other country.

MEANY: That's what they say and I don't buy it. There is a world-wide lack of freedom. There are a tremendous number of people in this world who haven't their freedom. We still have our freedom in this country. Yet, there are countries under dictatorship that have as high as 300 percent inflation but that doesn't mean that we

have to have that kind of inflation. We didn't have it before; we didn't have it under Kennedy; we didn't have it under Johnson; we didn't have it under Eisenhower. Why do we have to have it under this man now in the White House? And, I contend that we don't have to have it. Just because Brazil has a great inflation or some other countries do, we don't have to have it.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, was there any difference in the Council on the impeachment state ent?

MEANY: Yes. There were two members of the Council that did not agree with the statement.

REPORTER: Could you name them?

MEANY: Mr. Wurf and Mr. Hall.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, in the statement you said that in effect the Council supports the impeachment proceedings.

MEANY: The impeachment proceedings are the only proceedings provided by the Constitution to bring the President to task.

REPORTER: In a nut shell, what would the President's removal and the succession of the Vice President Ford mean to the people that you represent?

MEANY: In a nut shell?

REPORTER: In a nut shell.

MEANY: In a nut shell they would look at the White House and they would see a fellow who looks like he is honest and has integrity and we would hope that the American people would rally around him.

REPORTER: Economically, what specifically do you know about Vice President Ford?

MEANY: He is very conservative in his attitude. He never introduced a bill in 25 years in the House of Representatives under his own name but, you see, he is the only Vice President we have.

REPORTER: And you say in a nut shell that Mr. Ford would be better than Mr. Nixon?

MEANY: In a nut shell, he is the only Vice President we have.

REPORTER: What is your assessment of Mr. Ford?

MEANY: Oh, my assessment -- you mean on his performance since he has become Vice President? I think it is horrible. I think he should keep his mouth shut.

REPORTER: Could you elaborate?

MEANY: I could but I won't.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, since you offered, on behalf of the AFL-CIO to cooperate, what is the present attitude on wage and price controls?

MEANY: Our position on wage and price controls is the same as it was eight years ago. We have no objections to equitable controls. We have no objections if that is the answer. But we do object to controlling wages and not controlling interest rates, not controlling dividends, not controlling every last item that goes into this

structure, not controlling income of every particular type, not controlling the price in the grocery store, in the supermarket, in the drug store. In other words, we now have equity on this question of controls because there are no controls. The only thing that is equitable is no controls or absolutely complete and total controls.

I mentioned this to President Nixon back in 1971 and he threw his hands up and said that would take a bureaucracy of 300,000 people -- something like we had in World War II. Well, we might have been better off if he had set up a bureaucracy of 300,000 people than to go through the farce that he went through beginning in August 1971 with Phase I, Freeze I, Phase II, Freeze II and so on and so forth and leave us where the people are being badly, badly hurt by this whole situation.

It might have been less expensive to have set up a big bureaucracy.

REPORTER: The White House is running a series of economic road shows.

MEANY: I'm not sure they are doing that. They started one here in Chicago on the 26th. I'm not sure that that's not now inoperative, as Ron would say.

REPORTER: All the contact with labor was with the Teamsters. What was your advice to your affiliates?

MEANY: They did contact me at the last minute. Some White House physician -- I don't know who he represents. He is in the White House. Whether he is in charge of the aspirin division over there, I don't know. But he contacted me and wanted me to get somebody out here to Chicago to this meeting. I called and found out that the meeting was all set and that all the arrangements were made through the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry or whatever they call it. I felt that I was not going to take a left-handed, last-minute invitation of that type, especially when the man in charge out here for the Commerce and Industry Association was asked about it, he just said, "Oh, it's just propaganda for the President." I'm not interested, as I said before, in stunts.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, there has been a lot of speculation about your relationship with Robert Strauss and the Democratic party. What are your relationships?

MEANY: Well, I met him once or twice -- three times really. Once we had a cocktail together. My relationship with him is nothing. Nothing. He is in charge of the Democratic party. I happen to be the elected head of the trade union movement. And there is no connection between my organization and his organization. I have a lot of good friends who are Democrats and they are interested in the Democratic party and I would like to see them play a larger role in the Democratic party. As far as I'm concerned, and as far as the AFL-CIO is concerned, I have no connection with the Democratic party and have no intention of having any connection.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, if Vice President Ford should become President how long a honeymoon would he have?

MEANY: I don't know.

REPORTER: How long are you going to sit back and see if his program is going?

MEANY: I don't know. I can see your point. If you want to cooperate you have to say, "well, there is going to be no criticism. We are going to try to cooperate for X number of months or weeks." But even there, there is an unspoken reservation because if he sent a message to Congress calling for a piece of legislation -- let's say to follow Secretary Simon's program of \$20 billion budget cut -- you know, taking it out of the hides of the aged and the poor -- we couldn't agree with anything like that. So the honeymoon could last maybe overnight -- I just don't know.

But my inclination would certainly be to cooperate in a situation where a President is removed or resigned and we have a new man in there. My inclination would be to cooperate in every possible way. Reserving, of course, a right to protect our own interest.

REPORTER: If the Vice President continues his support of the President, saying he believes in his innocence, would that diminish your belief in the Vice President's integrity?

MEANY: Well, that is a very good question. In fact, it gives you cause to think that if he feels the President has done no wrong and that the President is innocent of all these things and that if he becomes President that he might do the same thing -- now, I just don't believe that. I don't believe he would set up an espionage unit and stuff like that. I'm willing to just take this as political loyalty and let it go at that.

REPORTER: If he becomes President through the impeachment process or resignation do you think Vice President Ford would be an easy mark for the Democrats in 1976?

MEANY: No. No, I do not.

The idea that the Democrats have a pushover in 1976, I don't buy that at all. If Nixon is still in the White House in 1976 yes. They could put my Aunt Tillie up and she would win.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany what other candidates besides your Aunt Tillie would you like to see President?

MEANY: Now, I didn't say that I would like for my Aunt Tillie to run. I was just saying she could win.

REPORTER: What other candidates do the Democrats . . .

MEANY: If Nixon is still in in 1976 it wouldn't make any difference. If Ford is there and the country has come out of the doldrums to some extent, Ford would be a very very serious candidate for reelection. The man in the White House always has a certain advantage and, of course, the Democrats might want to commit suicide again. You can never tell. They still have those suicidal tendencies within the party.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you think that if a Democratic Congress is elected in November, it should do something about inflation?

MEANY: Yes, I think that, under the present circumstances, we have to look to the Congress to do something about this situation, for instance, in the housing industry where we are in a deplorable situation -- where millions of people can't buy new homes because of the tremendous cost of hiring the money. I think that the Congress could pass legislation of various kinds. I think that they could set up billions of dollars to provide 6% money. Six percent money would revive the housing industry, revive it over night. It would have a tremendous impact on all of our domestic economic problems. I think they could order the Federal Reserve for instance to order the financial institution to take a certain percentage of money and divert it to socially important projects that are important to people rather than just putting it up to the highest bidder and, if the highest bidder, is a gambling casino, that's where the loan goes. So, I think that we have to look to Congress to help in this domestic economic situation.

REPORTER: Are you waiting until after November for the new Congress . . . .

MEANY: Oh, no, we are pressing this Congress. I don't think we can wait another six months.

REPORTER: What would be your legislative priorities next year?

MEANY: National Health Insurance, restoring the programs that the President destroyed. Many of the programs that we felt were socially important that they want to eliminate -- that Mr. Simon wants to eliminate. He wants, for instance, to cut down by 8% aid to the elderly. He wants to cut back the social security increases just for the next six months so to save \$4.3 billion and things like that. We would see that those things just didn't happen.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, how do you feel about the program Senator Bentsen outlined for the Democrats? Is that a viable program?

MEANY: I'm sorry, I didn't get a chance to study his program. That was when he replied to the President.

REPORTER: What about the cost of living task force?

MEANY: The cost of living task force to me -- we will have a statement on that later -- but off-the-cuff, the cost of living task force composed of Cabinet people and the economic advisers to the President and nobody else -- all government people and he wants a million dollar appropriation from the Congress -- this is a complete and absolute phoney. He can appoint that task force tomorrow morning and he has plenty of funds. This idea that this is something new, that this is something that he doesn't have. He has all these people if he wants their advice -- they are all in the White House, his economic advisers, his Cabinet people. So this cost of living task force is a real phoney.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, the last time you told us that with inflation going up 10 to 12% that workers were justified in seeking wage benefits above that level. Do you see any limit to what unions should seek?

MEANY: No, no, no, I don't. This may be considered reckless. Some may say this is a reckless statement. No, I don't see any limits. I think it would be crazy to ask for 25% when inflation is up 12%. But if inflation is up 12%, what is the answer? What are the unions in business for? They are in business to try to keep their people alive. That's why there are cost of living escalator clauses, which have been in vogue for 20 years at least, in collective bargaining. What are they for? They are to keep pace and any union that wants to keep pace now has to get 12%.

REPORTER: Do you think they will go much beyond that? Are they acting recklessly, though?

MEANY: I think the most reckless people in America today are the money changers. They are the people who are going to bring this economy to collapse. And, what is the motivation? It is very simple, a very simple word -- greed. No other motivation.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you mean. . . .

MEANY: I mean the bankers, yes.

REPORTER: You made your position clear and labor has on impeachment. . . .

MEANY: I always make my position perfectly clear.

REPORTER: And on the resignation -- what are your views on this third alternative -- that the President temporarily step aside?

MEANY: You mean, Senator Proxmire?

That's possible under the 25th amendment, but I don't know that that would make anybody happy except Proxmire. It wouldn't make me happy, I know that.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you recently made a statement where you targeted certain banks, like the Chase Manhattan Bank, First City Corp. and other Rockefeller controlled banks.

MEANY: Well, that's on these new city notes that are going to divert money from savings and loans. Now savings and loan institutions in this country have been for many, many years a great source of money for building homes. People put their money in and they loan it out on home building and they are limited now to somewhere in the 5-3/4% range. These new city bonds, as they call them, with a floating rate and a guarantee that they put a base under the rate over a certain length of time are going for the same type of money that would normally go into savings and loans -- and giving them 9.7%. Of course, they are long term bonds but they can be cashed in after a certain amount of time. And this is going to drain money from the savings and loans -- and none of this money is going to do anything for the housing industry.

REPORTER: Going back to politics for a minute. A couple of years ago you said that the Democratic party was in shambles -- how would you assess it today?

MEANY: Well, they are now in shambles plus two years.

REPORTER: With regard to direct mortgage loans for housing -- how hard could you push that?

MEANY: We are going to push just as hard as we can push because it is of tremendous importance. It's important in two ways. It would help the industry where we have hundreds of thousands -- a couple of million members. But it is important too for our 14 million members and their families. They can't get homes. It is important for many, many millions more who don't belong to our unions. After all a home you live in is just about the most basic thing you have outside of finding food, so this is something that we are going to press very hard. To try to get a reasonable interest structure for loaning money for housing. I don't know of anything more important.

REPORTER: The idea of the direct loans . . . .

MEANY: I don't care if they are direct or government guaranteed or whether the Federal Reserve uses its power or whether Congress directs them to use their power to allocate a certain amount of money. I don't care where it comes from but I think it's the government's obligation. Just as the government stepped in the other day and there was a real hustle and bustle over on Capitol Hill and within a day or two there were \$2 billion allocated for Earl Butz' friends, who were in real trouble. The people who were gouging us a year ago in the beef cattle industry are now in trouble. Because of that they got \$2 billion overnight, almost. So, if they can get \$2 billion of government credits and government backup credits then they are millions and millions of Americans who ought to get some consideration in their search for a decent home.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, would you recommend that there ought to be a ceiling on the amount of interest on those loans for housing?

MEANY: Oh, yes. Oh, absolutely. In other words, if the government is going to allocate a lot of money and it will still be at 10 or 11 or 12%, that's not worth it. I think we have to get back to 6% money. The 5-3/4% money.

REPORTER: What will that do, Mr. Meany, to the price of the products that go into the home -- lumber and other things? Wouldn't they demand a substantial increase?

MEANY: I don't know.

REPORTER: Thank you.



TRANSCRIPT OF:

PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1974 -- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**MEANY:** A number of statements have been distributed about various problems to which we addressed ourselves.

I would like to call particular attention to the statement on the retirement from the Council of Philip Randolph, who is past president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. This statement represents in a brief way what our thoughts are of Phil Randolph.

It would take a much longer statement to really do justice to Phil Randolph and the contribution that he has made over the years, not only to the advancement of the blacks in America and in the trade union movement but the contribution that he has made for the cause of human freedom all over.

It is kind of sad for me personally because of my close association with him, going back many years, to see him in retirement. That's the way things go and I want to publicly express appreciation and my great admiration for an old devoted trade unionist. Without casting any doubt on Martin Luther King who was, of course, the great proponent of non-violence, Phil Randolph carried the torch and, in the early years, in fact all his life, advocated progress without violence. He believed progress could be made without violence.

We have elected two new members of the Council. One in place of Phil Randolph and the other to take the place of John Griner, who died a short time back. John was with the American Federation of Government Employees.

The two new Council members are C.L. Dellums, who is president of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters, and Francis Filbey, who is president of our great Postal Union.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, is Mr. Randolph retiring because of illness?

**MEANY:** Well, yes. His health has failed but he is mentally alert. I talked to him a very short time ago and frankly I think the main reason he is retiring is that the doctor has told him that he does not want him to travel. He feels travel is dangerous for him. Phil Randolph is about 86. Mentally he is fine, but physically he has gone back.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, would you give us the reaction of labor to the latest Watergate disclosures?

**MEANY:** Well, the latest disclosure just adds to the wealth of evidence that the Congress will have before it under the impeachment proceedings. Looking at it, from just what is on the tapes, would indicate that the President did not tell us the truth when he said he didn't know about this operation and had nothing to do with trying to cover it up. He has been saying repeatedly that it wasn't until March 21, 1973 that he really found out what it was all about.

This tape indicates that he knew about it and was informed about it six days after it happened and it also indicates that he took action to cloak the investigations that were underway at that time. In other words, that he at that time took action to cover up.

This is only one more in the great load of stuff which has come out which indicates that the President surely should be impeached. And surely should be tried by the Senate as failing to live up to his oath of office.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, on one of those tapes, the one I think at two o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd, the President mentioned Shultz as having done a good job on the Meany thing.

**MEANY:** I read that. I don't know -- I'll have to ask blue eyes about that when I see him. Because I don't know whether when he said Shultz did a good job on the Meany thing maybe he did an investigation and kept me off the enemies list. I really don't know. I'll have to talk to George about that.

I had just come back from Europe that week. I had been over to Europe about 10 days and I recall it right well because somebody had called my office, according to reports that developed later, demanding that I go to New York to talk to George McGovern. That he wanted me to come up there to see him and who was I not to go up -- this was a great opportunity to talk to the man who was going to be President. Anyway, I told them to go to hell. The story came out later that this was not Gary Hart at all but this was someone from Colson's office imitating Hart. That happened that very week, that is how I remember. But as far as what the President was talking to Shultz about, I have no idea.

**REPORTER:** Do you think that Shultz could have been a part of that plan to get Colson to call you?

**MEANY:** No. Of that I'm quite positive. No, not Shultz.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, yesterday you said the AFL-CIO was adopting a hands-off policy on impeachment lobbying activity. Does this latest development yesterday change that?

**MEANY:** No. No. We presented our position some months ago. We documented it for our own people and for our own paper. We distributed that documentation to the press. I think it was 19 items on which we thought the President should stand trial on impeachment charges and we finished that series of articles sometime in January. We have, of course, printed the news in our press since then but we sent word out then, or at least I did, to our people over on Capitol Hill that there was to be no traditional lobbying.

Now there is a difference between expressing an opinion on things that happen, and that, of course, we are going to continue to do. But lobbying is something different. Lobbying is where you go and you count noses. You see a Senator or a Congressman in his office and try to persuade him and put him on record. That we do every day of the week, on all sorts of legislation -- legislation that affects labor, legislation that affects consumers, legislation on civil rights, legislation on education. It is a day-to-day job that we do all the time with the staff, not with just the AFL-CIO but the staff of the international unions.

As far as I know, all of the unions have followed our lead. We are not lobbying on this question. We are not trying to press a Congressman or a Senator as to how he or she should vote. And as far as I'm concerned, we will not do that.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, does this news change your views on your desires for the President to resign?

**MEANY:** It does not. In fact, it reinforces my view that the President should resign.

I think it is quite clear that what we face for the next four months or so is certainly bad for this nation. We do not have a functioning executive branch. The President is not functioning as he should under these circumstances. And it is quite obvious why. The Departments are without direction. There are all sorts of unfilled positions. There is a complete lack of policy from the Executive branch. And, on the question of foreign affairs, how can a Secretary of State, a competent Secretary of State, operate when his principal is in a sense crippled, and the people across the world know this. So, this places an awful handicap on anyone who has to conduct foreign policy. We are going to have sort of a hiatus there for the next four months.

Then we have the schedule in the House where on the 19th of August they are going to start to debate the Judiciary Committee's report. It is going to take them a couple of weeks and, of course, it seems quite obvious that somewhere toward the end of August they will approve articles of impeachment.

The the President has to have a month or so in September to prepare his defense. Then the Senate goes into an impeachment trial around the first of October. So, when you look at it you see for the next four months a crippled executive branch really not functioning, and I don't think there is any room for argument of this, and, we see our legislative branch completely preoccupied with impeachment procedures for the next four months. So this means a period between now and perhaps Thanksgiving where there is going to be no real direction and I think this is bad.

I think it is bad for the country. I think it is bad for the people and for that reason I feel that it would be the best thing for the President under these circumstances to resign.

Now, the best he can hope for, and this is being practical about it, is to perhaps escape conviction by the Senate and if he does it will be by a narrow vote. And then we would have practically a lame-duck President for the next two years. I don't think that America -- and I'm looking at it from the point of view of the nation -- I'm looking at it from the point of view -- that Americans can afford to go through that sort of situation for the next two years.

**REPORTER:** Do you think that he would submit himself to the Senate?

**MEANY:** I don't know. He keeps saying that he will not submit a resignation and, of course, other people have said that and have changed their minds. Even today he said again that he would not submit his resignation. I merely say, as one individual, as one American citizen, that I think it would be the best thing for the country if he would submit his resignation and do it immediately.

**REPORTER:** What do you mean, you don't think the nation could take a lame-duck President for two years?

**MEANY:** Well, I think our economy would continue to go down hill. I think we are approaching a disastrous -- not a recession, we are in a recession now -- we are approaching a disastrous depression. We see the head of one of our largest banks saying that he hasn't dismissed the possibility of a panic, financial panic. And, I think that one of the contributing causes is the lack of confidence in this country in the Executive Branch at the present time. And I think a couple of more years of this would be disastrous.

**REPORTER:** If Gerald Ford becomes President, would you like to see him make changes in the current Cabinet?

**MEANY:** Oh, I don't think that it's a question of what I would like. I think that if Gerald Ford became President he would have to look at the Cabinet and he would have to appoint a Cabinet of the type of people that Gerald Ford would feel comfortable with. I think this would result in major changes in the Cabinet. I don't think that everybody would go down the drain but I think there would be major changes. I think this would just be normal -- a new man would want people close to him, people he knew better than the people that are in there. So I'm sure there would be changes.

**REPORTER:** Would you like to see a new Secretary of Labor?

**MEANY:** I'd like to see that tomorrow.

**REPORTER:** How about Kissinger?

**MEANY:** I think Kissinger is a very competent man in his position. I don't agree with some of the things that he is doing but he is doing things under the sponsorship of the President. He represents the President and I think he might do a much better job under some other President.

REPORTER: Who would you like to see as Vice President under a President Ford?

MEANY: I don't know, I'll have to look at that.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you foresee formation of a public employees department in the AFL-CIO?

MEANY: I'm chartering a public employees department today. I'm sorry I didn't tell you that but that is one of the things that I announced to the Council.

REPORTER: Who is going to be in charge of that?

MEANY: Whoever they elect. There are 12 unions and there will be more coming in and it will be whoever they select. That will be their job.

REPORTER: With a membership, of about how many?

MEANY: About 2 million.

REPORTER: Do you think you will ever see collective bargaining for public employees in Chicago as long as Richard Daley is mayor?

MEANY: I have no information on the collective bargaining situation in Chicago. If they don't have collective bargaining, I'd be a little bit surprised. I see collective bargaining widening for public employees all over this country. In other words, I don't think public employees are going to be any longer treated as a class of workers apart from other workers. They are the same as other workers; they have the same problems and no matter what special laws you write for them they will strike and they will strike successfully and that applies, in my book, to Chicago as well as any other city.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, Mayor Daley has been characterized as a friend of labor, and yet he, almost singularly among big city mayors, has dragged his feet on collective bargaining.

MEANY: I have no information on that and I really don't know anything about it. In fact, I'm a little bit surprised when you tell me that.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, have you given any thought to organizing professional athletes?

MEANY: No. From time to time that matter has come up to the Executive Council, but not in recent years. I remember here in Chicago, oh, a good many years ago a little fellow by the name of Marty McManus, who was the infielder for the old St. Louis Browns, came in and he met with a committee of the old American Federation of Labor Executive Council. We told him that we would not organize baseball players because they were independent contractors and that they did not fit into the trade union picture. We felt that the things that they were interested in could very well be accomplished by a sort of fraternal association with a good lawyer. And that is what has really happened. I think that the professional baseball players under Marvin Miller, their lawyer, are doing quite well.

Now, of course, the football players are trying to achieve somewhat the same result. They are starting a little later.

You see, when you bring people into the trade union movement, the first thing that you have to ask is "can we do something for them?" You don't bring them in just to have them in, just to put a trade union label on them. The second thing is: "Do they fit in to the movement?" After all in the movement we expect cooperation. We expect one union to help another. We expect one worker, who is in trouble, to be helped by other workers, who are closely associated with him. I can readily see where picket lines might be effective and I could see why they wouldn't be effective -- take a ball player, a football player getting \$25,000 a game -- it runs that high -- respecting a picket line to protect a \$4 a hour ticket seller.

So there is a community of interest that normally exists where there is a normal employer-employee relationship. These people are professional athletes and, in a sense, they are independent contractors. They contract for their own services. So, we have always felt that there was no real service that could be performed by a trade union that could not be performed or done for them by an association such as the baseball players have now.

REPORTER: Have they contacted you at all?

MEANY: No. No.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, about the Farm Workers. What is the status of that resolution yesterday? Have you talked to Mr. Fitzsimmons? Was there any progress?

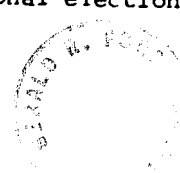
MEANY: No. We reached an agreement with Fitzsimmons last year and it was quite comprehensive. It took a long time to negotiate. In fact, the agreement came after a full three days' session and then Mr. Fitzsimmons repudiated it after a meeting with his Executive Board. We have had no contact with him since. We are pursuing the boycott as the best means of helping the Farm Workers. In fact, it seems to be the only means now because, as far as physical possession of those fields out there we are up against the Teamsters, the Teamster goons. We are up against the state government which is very, very definitely on the side of the ranch owners. Our only recourse is the boycott and I think eventually we will do something for the Farm Workers by that method.

REPORTER: Are any AFL-CIO monies going to the Farm Workers at this point?

MEANY: Not directly, no. We, of course, gave them \$1.6 million last year as you will remember. They are getting help from the various unions but we do not have an AFL-CIO monthly allotment such as we had for many, many years.

They are collecting dues, of course, and they are getting help from other unions.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, in view of Watergate and impeachment procedures, what do you see the outlook for the Congressional elections this fall?



**MEANY:** Well, I don't have any crystal ball but I do have some pretty solid information. As it stands now, it is going to be a disaster for the Republican party. I mean a real disaster. The people in the marginal districts who won by 6 or 8 or 10 percent a couple of years ago - many, many of them are going to go down the drain.

However, I'm a realist. There would be a tremendous change and a tremendous improvement in their prospects if Nixon would resign at this time.

I think this whole Watergate, as part of the Republican picture, would more or less disappear if the President would disappear from the political scene. But if he is still in there and this Senate trial is going on, with all this stuff that keeps coming out - in fact, there seems to be no end to Watergate revelations. They keep coming and coming and coming for months.

Somebody said the other day that the other shoe dropped. And a fellow said "No. That's the 465th shoe that dropped."

If this thing keeps going on and this scenario keeps developing until the first week of November, it just spells disaster for the Republicans. No matter what they say, they cannot divorce themselves from their man in the White House. He is Mr. Republican and should be, of course, they keep saying that the Republican party had nothing to do with CREEP, that CREEP was a separate institution.

Well, I don't think the average voter would make that distinction. CREEP was a Republican entity, just the same as the Republican National Committee but technically they were separate.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, two questions. Do you believe you will get a veto proof Congress?

**MEANY:** Well, when we say we want a veto proof Congress, we are thinking in terms of the many social programs that the President refused to fund and many things that we are interested in that he has been definitely against. We are thinking in terms of a Congress that can override vetoes. It is just as practical as that. You know, if you have the votes to override a veto, quite often you don't get a veto.

In September 1973 the President vetoed a minimum wage bill and that veto was sustained by a very, very small margin of votes. We passed that same bill in the spring of this year and we repassed it by such an overwhelming vote that we didn't get a veto. He signed the identical bill early this year that he vetoed last August or September.

So, when we demonstrated that the votes were there, we didn't get a veto and this is true of much legislation. Now, as far as the argument that we want to control the Congress, this is not so. We want a veto proof Congress so that the essential social legislation that we are interested in will not be knocked down by one-third plus one in support of the President. I think that when we look for a veto proof Congress, we are looking for something that is very practical.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, earlier you talked about some hard facts on the election. As things now stand, if the President is still in office, what type of numbers are you talking about?

**MEANY:** I'd say 60. They would lose 60 seats. They would go down to the lowest they have been in many years. I'll make that as a prediction. If he is still in there and we have got this thing unresolved, they will lose 60 seats.

**REPORTER:** In the House?

**MEANY:** In the House. I have no particular facts about the Senate.

**REPORTER:** Are you going to support Senator McGovern?

**MEANY:** Our people in South Dakota are supporting and have endorsed Senator McGovern. What you have to keep in mind is, we do not endorse Congressman or Senators in Washington. The only endorsements that we make in national COPE, or the AFL-CIO, is every four years we have an opportunity to endorse a candidate for President and a candidate for Vice President. All the other endorsements are made at the local level and at the state level. And we rarely quarrel with those endorsements.

**REPORTER:** Will you attend the Democratic mini-convention?

**MEANY:** No.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, you have made your predictions on the Republican losses of 60 seats if the President stays in. You said it would be less if he resigns. Do you have a prediction in that event?

**MEANY:** No. No, I say their chances would be better if he were out of there.

**REPORTER:** Do you have any feelings that you are approaching a milestone in your life? Do you have any feeling about the political problems in Washington in relation to some of the things you have seen in past?

**MEANY:** You know to me it is a great time because things are happening everyday that there is no precedent for -- things that just never happened before. Every piece of news that I hear about on these tapes or what the President did or what he said or what memo's were altered and falsified. You just say, "incredible," "impossible." But these things happen.

**REPORTER:** Have you ever seen anything like that before?

**MEANY:** No. I don't think there is any question that there has never been corruption in government, at least at this high level, to the extent that there is today. You take Teapot Dome, I can tell you about that, I don't think there is anyone in the room that remembers it but me. But Teapot Dome was a good, old-fashioned case of graft. Simple, plain, ordinary graft. A fellow selling his soul and selling his influence -- a member of the Cabinet -- for money. There were two Cabinet members involved, Harry Daugherty was the Attorney General and Albert Fall who was the Secretary of the Interior. They were both indicted and Fall was convicted for selling access to the naval oil reserves to the Sinclair Oil Company. This was up at Teapot Dome in Wyoming.

But that was a very, very, simple, uncomplicated case of graft -- not legal graft but I mean real illegal graft.

When you compare that to Colson and Segretti, Haldeman and Ehrlichman and the President and Mitchell and everybody else involved, why it was nothing like Teapot Dome.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you think that COPE should include impeachment votes in its right and wrong votes in the fall?

MEANY: That is something we haven't decided but I think they should. And that's the way we will most likely decide, I guess.

REPORTER: What future do you see for organized labor after all your years in the labor movement?

MEANY: I'm quite optimistic about the future of organized labor. I've seen organized labor come from a fairly simple operation to a very sophisticated operation. Our people, like all of the other people in America, are better educated and we are trying to see to it that they are even better educated in the future. I don't think that I have ever seen labor so active in so many diverse areas that affect their lives, and not only their lives but the lives of the American people as a whole.

It was quite simple back in the old days. You didn't get enough money in the pay envelope -- why? Because the boss wouldn't give it to you. Now he had it but he just wouldn't give it to you. He was just an old meanie you know. He just wouldn't give you that sort of money. Then we would go to politicians and we would say "We don't like this legislation and because we don't like it we want you to vote against it." We don't do that any more. We present the facts and figures, legal arguments and all this sort of thing. We deal with everything that affects the American community. We deal with everything that affects education, civil rights, consumer protection and so on. The scope of our activities has expanded tremendously in my years in the trade union movement and I expect to see it expand further and I think we take a much more intelligent approach to the problems.

I think that we are going to continue to have an influence on the future of the country as a whole. I don't mean just politically. I mean in every other way. So, I'm quite an optimist about the future of the trade union movement.

REPORTER: The merger, did it play a substantial role in the labor movement?

MEANY: When we merged there was one objective that I had uppermost in my mind. That was to see that we didn't unmerge. So we are here now almost twenty years, and I see no weakness in our merger.

REPORTER: What do you see about the prospect of the Auto Workers coming back?

MEANY: Oh, I think, the Auto Workers should be back in the national trade union movement. I think all organizations that can meet the requirements should be in and I think that organizations that can't meet the requirements should not be in. As far as the Auto Workers are concerned, there is no reason they shouldn't be in. In my book there was no practical trade union reason for them to get out. We have very good relations with them. I have very good relations with Leonard Woodcock. We have good cooperation on many issues and I think time will take care of that. I'm quite sure they will be back.

REPORTER: What about the Mine Workers?

MEANY: Well, I don't know the Mine Workers. I met Miller, the president of the Mine Workers, only once and I don't know what the feeling is there. Of course, they were part of the trade union movement going way back to the early days. They seem to have some real internal problems still and they have certainly had other problems. They have a new contract coming up and I'm sure he is preoccupied with those problems. I don't see any reason why the Miners should not be part of the trade union movement as a whole.

REPORTER: Will you be aiding the Mine Workers in any way in their negotiations?

MEANY: No.

REPORTER: Any requests?

MEANY: No. He came in to see me with the Secretary treasurer as sort of a courtesy call. It was some months ago and we had a nice talk.

REPORTER: No technical assistance?

MEANY: No. Oh, no.

REPORTER: Have you had contact with Leonard Woodcock or other representatives of the UAW since their convention?

MEANY: I haven't had personally but I meet Leonard from time to time in meetings and my relationship with him is good. I haven't talked to him but I understand that some of their people have some reservations and some problems but as far as I know there is no good trade union reason why they should be out.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you were asked about the reaffiliation of the Teamsters and as I recall you suggested that it would be up to them to apply. Do you think the Teamsters would be eligible for readmission under your statutes?

MEANY: Many years ago we laid down a very simple prescription for the return of any union, any union that wants to accept the constitution and the rulings of the AFL-CIO. Now, you have to understand the Teamsters, while there was all this record of corruption and we knew about it, that was not really -- technically -- the reason why they were expelled. Under our constitution, we had a right to call in any union that was under suspicion of corrupt activity regarding handling of union financing and things like that. Now, the Teamster's situation was really much more than a suspicion because of statements given by officials of the Teamsters Union under oath. It was quite obvious that there was corruption and misuse of money. That is not to say that we proved that but there was a very, very strong suspicion. We call the Teamsters in and said that you have to appear before our Ethical Practices Committee and you have to explain your actions. And they said, "we will not appear. We will not." Then we said, "This is the constitution. You approved the constitution. Your president was one of the committee that wrote the constitution only two years before." Their reply was, "This is our business and we will not submit to questions."

So we put them out of the AFL-CIO on the basis that they would not abide by the Constitution.

Now, if they were to come back, of course, this question would still have to be answered. In this way there is a difference between them and the Auto Workers. The Auto Workers have no constitutional problem at all. In 1961, after a good deal of discussion at our Convention in Miami in December of that year, we practically invited the Teamsters to come back and to come back under the constitution. Now, at that time Hoffa was the president and he felt that he couldn't meet those conditions because if he came back he would have to answer some questions.

Right now, with the behavior of the Teamsters, especially in this Farm Workers thing, I would think there would be some other questions. You see this is a voluntary organization. It is voluntary in the sense that anybody can leave it. It is also voluntary in the sense that unions can say to another union that we don't want you.

Under the circumstances then, I tell you very, very frankly, while the Teamsters are doing the work of the growers in California, kicking these little Farm Workers around, I wouldn't want them back in the AFL-CIO.

REPORTER: Do you think that Jimmy Hoffa should be allowed back into the labor movement now?

MEANY: I think the restriction placed on Hoffa's parole is very unusual. I think it is unfair to place that restriction upon him, which means that he can't participate in the affairs of the trade union movement or in his own union. I would hope, however, that the Teamsters would never let him come back. It has nothing to do with his right as an individual to try to come back.

REPORTER: Thank you, Mr. Meany.



# NEWS *from the* **AFL-CIO**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Attached are transcripts of the press conferences held by AFL-CIO President George Meany on Monday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 6, 1974 at the regular meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.



TRANSCRIPT OF:

PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1974 -- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MEANY: Before getting into any questions that you may have, I would like to announce that I have sitting along side of me Brother Meshel, General Secretary of Histadrut, which is the Israeli Federation of Labor. Brother Meshel appeared before the Executive Council this morning and discussed some of the problems -- economic and military facing the Israeli people today. And, of course, we indicated to him that we are continuing to support Histadrut and to support Israel in its efforts to stay alive in the Middle East.

So Brother Meshel will be here and at the conclusion of my portion of the press conference he will be available for any questions that you may want to ask him about the situation in Israel.

Now, you have a number of statements on the economy, high interest rates, collective bargaining and the economy, housing and, of course, a statement on Israel and a statement on the farm workers. And, also a statement on our attitude on the impeachment question.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, have you been invited to the White House to discuss inflation and if the answer is "no" would you go if you were invited?

MEANY: Oh, yes, I have not been invited to the White House to discuss the question of inflation. I have talked to Mr. Rush, who is the President's chief economic advisor, at the present time, and I have indicated that labor in this country is, as it has always been, involved, concerned, affected by inflation. In fact, we feel that the millions of people that we represent are certainly among the first victims of inflation. And, we are ready to cooperate with the Administration in any viable plan, any program that will help to solve this problem.

I have made it quite clear to Mr. Rush that we are not prepared to become part of an Administration charade of some kind or Administration publicity stunt, which seems to have been the Administration's responses to all of these problems for the past several years. Mr. Herb Stein would make a speech or McCracken, when he was there, would make a speech. Arthur Burns would make a speech, the President would make a speech but there was no substance to the program. We got a lot of false predictions, a lot of false promises. We were told that we now could see the light at the end of the tunnel. We were told that last quarter was bad; this quarter was bad; this quarter was going to be good; inflation rate is going to be down next December to where it was last January and so on and so forth. And none of this panned out.

I made it quite clear to Mr. Rush that we would not take part in any publicity stunts or anything that was designed solely to indicate that the President was concerned with this problem. If, however, they had a program -- a program that made sense -- that we would cooperate in every possible way to do what we could to meet this particular problem.

REPORTER: Do you have any suggestions, Sir?

MEANY: We have a long, long list of suggestions that we have made. Up to now they have received very little attention from the Administration and actually as of the moment they have no plan. I think cutting down the high interest rate would help. I don't know anything that is more inflationary than high interest rates because high interest rates go into business expansion; they go into the cost of operating and they go into every phase of economic life. Eventually, high interest rates are paid for by the consumer.

I think it would help the situation if our tax structure was readjusted. I think the exorbitant profits -- these companies getting two or three hundred percent in profits -- also have an impact on the problem. But, in the final analysis, I think it is up to the Administration that has come up with this disastrous policy -- inaugurated in February 1969 -- to come up with a viable plan. I think it would be unfair to take the housewife who is paying through the nose -- who is at the supermarket checkout counter -- and say to her "what are you complaining about. Do you have a plan?"

This is what we elect Congress for. This is what we elect Senators for. And, pardon the expression, this is what we elect our President for.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, last week you said that the American public hasn't any confidence in our President.

MEANY: I think that was the greatest understatement I've ever made.

REPORTER: Do you think we would be better off with Vice President Ford fighting inflation and other things?

MEANY: Well, I wouldn't make any prediction on what Mr. Ford's policies would be. When you say "lack of confidence, lack of credibility." I think Ford would be an improvement because there would be a certain confidence in his integrity that we have evidently lost with the present occupant of the White House.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you have confidence in Vice President Ford should he become President?

MEANY: I have confidence in his integrity. And I think most of the American people would be willing to chip in and try to help get us over this problem which would surely ensue if the President is convicted. I think there would be a certain amount of national unity displayed and I think that Vice President Ford, if he becomes President, would have that kind of support. And I am sure that at least he would have the support of the trade union movement insofar as we could consistently support him in view of our problem and our policies.

Vice President Ford is a conservative, you know but we have lived in this country with conservatives before and the conservative with integrity is far better than what we have today in the White House.

I don't know whether President Nixon is conservative or radical or what he is and I'm sure that he himself doesn't know.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, in your opinion, could there be a quicker solution to the economic problems if the President resigned?

MEANY: Yes. And I don't agree with those who say that there is something undemocratic about resigning or that resigning is a terrible thing. Resigning resolved the Spiro problem and nobody seemed to get excited. I have not heard anyone say that the country is in very, very bad shape because Spiro resigned and if the President resigned, I don't think it would be as shocking to the country.

REPORTER: If the President were to resign, would you favor granting him immunity?

MEANY: The question of granting him immunity is something that has been spoken about -- I would say I would have no interest in seeing the President have any further troubles. All I want of the President is to just go away.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you see any relationship between the President's problems and the economy?

MEANY: There is a relationship between the President's scrambling to maintain himself in office and the economy itself. Now, I am not a financial expert. I'm not an expert in the stock market but I can read the figures. The stock market is certainly reacting to the President's lack of leadership. It is reacting specifically to tight money, high interest rates.

The thing that I can't understand is after you go five years down one road and you go down, down, down into economic disaster that you still maintain the same theory that started you down the road -- restricted credit, tight money, high interest rates, high unemployment.

This is Arthur Burns' philosophy enunciated in February 1969. We weren't doing too badly then. We had a little over 4% inflation rate and now we have an almost 12% inflation now. We still had 5-3/4%, 5 1/2% interest. A person in the middle income bracket could buy a home. A person in the \$25,000-a-year class can't buy a home in America today unless he is willing to go down into the older portions of our cities.

In view of this absolute economic disaster, I can't understand Arthur Burns, who is the architect, refusing to change his attitudes.

He is still where he was in February 1969. Still going down the road -- restricted credit, tight money. Everything is determined by money and the cost of money and until this changes I think we are going to continue to go down the road to further economic trouble.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, the President, the Administration suggested that the problem is as real as you say but they also say that there is a world-wide inflation and that the problem here in the United States is no different than in any other country.

MEANY: That's what they say and I don't buy it. There is a world-wide lack of freedom. There are a tremendous number of people in this world who haven't their freedom. We still have our freedom in this country. Yet, there are countries under dictatorship that have as high as 300 percent inflation but that doesn't mean that we

have to have that kind of inflation. We didn't have it before; we didn't have it under Kennedy; we didn't have it under Johnson; we didn't have it under Eisenhower. Why do we have to have it under this man now in the White House? And, I contend that we don't have to have it. Just because Brazil has a great inflation or some other countries do, we don't have to have it.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, was there any difference in the Council on the impeachment statement?

MEANY: Yes. There were two members of the Council that did not agree with the statement.

REPORTER: Could you name them?

MEANY: Mr. Wurf and Mr. Hall.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, in the statement you said that in effect the Council supports the impeachment proceedings.

MEANY: The impeachment proceedings are the only proceedings provided by the Constitution to bring the President to task.

REPORTER: In a nut shell, what would the President's removal and the succession of the Vice President Ford mean to the people that you represent?

MEANY: In a nut shell?

REPORTER: In a nut shell.

MEANY: In a nut shell they would look at the White House and they would see a fellow who looks like he is honest and has integrity and we would hope that the American people would rally around him.

REPORTER: Economically, what specifically do you know about Vice President Ford?

MEANY: He is very conservative in his attitude. He never introduced a bill in 25 years in the House of Representatives under his own name but, you see, he is the only Vice President we have.

REPORTER: And you say in a nut shell that Mr. Ford would be better than Mr. Nixon?

MEANY: In a nut shell, he is the only Vice President we have.

REPORTER: What is your assessment of Mr. Ford?

MEANY: Oh, my assessment -- you mean on his performance since he has become Vice President? I think it is horrible. I think he should keep his mouth shut.

REPORTER: Could you elaborate?

MEANY: I could but I won't.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, since you offered, on behalf of the AFL-CIO to cooperate, what is the present attitude on wage and price controls?

MEANY: Our position on wage and price controls is the same as it was eight years ago. We have no objections to equitable controls. We have no objections if that is the answer. But we do object to controlling wages and not controlling interest rates, not controlling dividends, not controlling every last item that goes into this

structure, not controlling income of every particular type, not controlling the price in the grocery store, in the supermarket, in the drug store. In other words, we now have equity on this question of controls because there are no controls. The only thing that is equitable is no controls or absolutely complete and total controls.

I mentioned this to President Nixon back in 1971 and he threw his hands up and said that would take a bureaucracy of 300,000 people -- something like we had in World War II. Well, we might have been better off if he had set up a bureaucracy of 300,000 people than to go through the farce that he went through beginning in August 1971 with Phase I, Freeze I, Phase II, Freeze II and so on and so forth and leave us where the people are being badly, badly hurt by this whole situation.

It might have been less expensive to have set up a big bureaucracy.

REPORTER: The White House is running a series of economic road shows.

MEANY: I'm not sure they are doing that. They started one here in Chicago on the 26th. I'm not sure that that's not now inoperative, as Ron would say.

REPORTER: All the contact with labor was with the Teamsters. What was your advice to your affiliates?

MEANY: They did contact me at the last minute. Some White House physician -- I don't know who he represents. He is in the White House. Whether he is in charge of the aspirin division over there, I don't know. But he contacted me and wanted me to get somebody out here to Chicago to this meeting. I called and found out that the meeting was all set and that all the arrangements were made through the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry or whatever they call it. I felt that I was not going to take a left-handed, last-minute invitation of that type, especially when the man in charge out here for the Commerce and Industry Association was asked about it, he just said, "Oh, it's just propaganda for the President." I'm not interested, as I said before, in stunts.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, there has been a lot of speculation about your relationship with Robert Strauss and the Democratic party. What are your relationships?

MEANY: Well, I met him once or twice -- three times really. Once we had a cocktail together. My relationship with him is nothing. Nothing. He is in charge of the Democratic party. I happen to be the elected head of the trade union movement. And there is no connection between my organization and his organization. I have a lot of good friends who are Democrats and they are interested in the Democratic party and I would like to see them play a larger role in the Democratic party. As far as I'm concerned, and as far as the AFL-CIO is concerned, I have no connection with the Democratic party and have no intention of having any connection.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, if Vice President Ford should become President how long a honeymoon would he have?

MEANY: I don't know.

REPORTER: How long are you going to sit back and see if his program is going?

MEANY: I don't know. I can see your point. If you want to cooperate you have to say, "well, there is going to be no criticism. We are going to try to cooperate for X number of months or weeks." But even there, there is an unspoken reservation because if he sent a message to Congress calling for a piece of legislation -- let's say to follow Secretary Simon's program of \$20 billion budget cut -- you know, taking it out of the hides of the aged and the poor -- we couldn't agree with anything like that. So the honeymoon could last maybe overnight -- I just don't know.

But my inclination would certainly be to cooperate in a situation where a President is removed or resigned and we have a new man in there. My inclination would be to cooperate in every possible way. Reserving, of course, a right to protect our own interest.

REPORTER: If the Vice President continues his support of the President, saying he believes in his innocence, would that diminish your belief in the Vice President's integrity?

MEANY: Well, that is a very good question. In fact, it gives you cause to think that if he feels the President has done no wrong and that the President is innocent of all these things and that if he becomes President that he might do the same thing -- now, I just don't believe that. I don't believe he would set up an espionage unit and stuff like that. I'm willing to just take this as political loyalty and let it go at that.

REPORTER: If he becomes President through the impeachment process or resignation do you think Vice President Ford would be an easy mark for the Democrats in 1976?

MEANY: No. No, I do not.

The idea that the Democrats have a pushover in 1976, I don't buy that at all. If Nixon is still in the White House in 1976 yes. They could put my Aunt Tillie up and she would win.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany what other candidates besides your Aunt Tillie would you like to see President?

MEANY: Now, I didn't say that I would like for my Aunt Tillie to run. I was just saying she could win.

REPORTER: What other candidates do the Democrats . . .

MEANY: If Nixon is still in in 1976 it wouldn't make any difference. If Ford is there and the country has come out of the doldrums to some extent, Ford would be a very, very serious candidate for reelection. The man in the White House always has a certain advantage and, of course, the Democrats might want to commit suicide again. You can never tell. They still have those suicidal tendencies within the party.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you think that if a Democratic Congress is elected in November, it should do something about inflation?

MEANY: Yes, I think that, under the present circumstances, we have to look to the Congress to do something about this situation, for instance, in the housing industry where we are in a deplorable situation -- where millions of people can't buy new homes because of the tremendous cost of hiring the money. I think that the Congress could pass legislation of various kinds. I think that they could set up billions of dollars to provide 6% money. Six percent money would revive the housing industry, revive it over night. It would have a tremendous impact on all of our domestic economic problems. I think they could order the Federal Reserve for instance to order the financial institution to take a certain percentage of money and divert it to socially important projects that are important to people rather than just putting it up to the highest bidder and, if the highest bidder, is a gambling casino, that's where the loan goes. So, I think that we have to look to Congress to help in this domestic economic situation.

REPORTER: Are you waiting until after November for the new Congress . . . .

MEANY: Oh, no, we are pressing this Congress. I don't think we can wait another six months.

REPORTER: What would be your legislative priorities next year?

MEANY: National Health Insurance, restoring the programs that the President destroyed. Many of the programs that we felt were socially important that they want to eliminate -- that Mr. Simon wants to eliminate. He wants, for instance, to cut down by 8% aid to the elderly. He wants to cut back the social security increases just for the next six months so to save \$4.3 billion and things like that. We would see that those things just didn't happen.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, how do you feel about the program Senator Bentsen outlined for the Democrats? Is that a viable program?

MEANY: I'm sorry, I didn't get a chance to study his program. That was when he replied to the President.

REPORTER: What about the cost of living task force?

MEANY: The cost of living task force to me -- we will have a statement on that later -- but off-the-cuff, the cost of living task force composed of Cabinet people and the economic advisers to the President and nobody else -- all government people and he wants a million dollar appropriation from the Congress -- this is a complete and absolute phoney. He can appoint that task force tomorrow morning and he has plenty of funds. This idea that this is something new, that this is something that he doesn't have. He has all these people if he wants their advice -- they are all in the White House, his economic advisers, his Cabinet people. So this cost of living task force is a real phoney.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, the last time you told us that with inflation going up 10 to 12% that workers were justified in seeking wage benefits above that level. Do you see any limit to what unions should seek?

MEANY: No, no, no, I don't. This may be considered reckless. Some may say this is a reckless statement. No, I don't see any limits. I think it would be crazy to ask for 25% when inflation is up 12%. But if inflation is up 12%, what is the answer? What are the unions in business for? They are in business to try to keep their people alive. That's why there are cost of living escalator clauses, which have been in vogue for 20 years at least, in collective bargaining. What are they for? They are to keep pace and any union that wants to keep pace now has to get 12%.

REPORTER: Do you think they will go much beyond that? Are they acting recklessly, though?

MEANY: I think the most reckless people in America today are the money changers. They are the people who are going to bring this economy to collapse. And, what is the motivation? It is very simple, a very simple word -- greed. No other motivation.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you mean. . . .

MEANY: I mean the bankers, yes.

REPORTER: You made your position clear and labor has on impeachment. . . .

MEANY: I always make my position perfectly clear.

REPORTER: And on the resignation -- what are your views on this third alternative -- that the President temporarily step aside?

MEANY: You mean, Senator Proxmire?

That's possible under the 25th amendment, but I don't know that that would make anybody happy except Proxmire. It wouldn't make me happy, I know that.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you recently made a statement where you targeted certain banks, like the Chase Manhattan Bank, First City Corp. and other Rockefeller controlled banks.

MEANY: Well, that's on these new city notes that are going to divert money from savings and loans. Now savings and loan institutions in this country have been for many, many years a great source of money for building homes. People put their money in and they loan it out on home building and they are limited now to somewhere in the 5-3/4% range. These new city bonds, as they call them, with a floating rate and a guarantee that they put a base under the rate over a certain length of time are going for the same type of money that would normally go into savings and loans -- and giving them 9.7%. Of course, they are long term bonds but they can be cashed in after a certain amount of time. And this is going to drain money from the savings and loans -- and none of this money is going to do anything for the housing industry.

REPORTER: Going back to politics for a minute. A couple of years ago you said that the Democratic party was in shambles -- how would you assess it today?

MEANY: Well, they are now in shambles plus two years.

REPORTER: With regard to direct mortgage loans for housing -- how hard could you push that?

MEANY: We are going to push just as hard as we can push because it is of tremendous importance. It's important in two ways. It would help the industry where we have hundreds of thousands -- a couple of million members. But it is important too for our 14 million members and their families. They can't get homes. It is important for many, many millions more who don't belong to our unions. After all a home you live in is just about the most basic thing you have outside of finding food, so this is something that we are going to press very hard. To try to get a reasonable interest structure for loaning money for housing. I don't know of anything more important.

REPORTER: The idea of the direct loans . . . .

MEANY: I don't care if they are direct or government guaranteed or whether the Federal Reserve uses its power or whether Congress directs them to use their power to allocate a certain amount of money. I don't care where it comes from but I think it's the government's obligation. Just as the government stepped in the other day and there was a real hustle and bustle over on Capitol Hill and within a day or two there were \$2 billion allocated for Earl Butz' friends, who were in real trouble. The people who were gouging us a year ago in the beef cattle industry are now in trouble. Because of that they got \$2 billion overnight, almost. So, if they can get \$2 billion of government credits and government backup credits then they are millions and millions of Americans who ought to get some consideration in their search for a decent home.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, would you recommend that there ought to be a ceiling on the amount of interest on those loans for housing?

MEANY: Oh, yes. Oh, absolutely. In other words, if the government is going to allocate a lot of money and it will still be at 10 or 11 or 12%, that's not worth it. I think we have to get back to 6% money. The 5-3/4% money.

REPORTER: What will that do, Mr. Meany, to the price of the products that go into the home -- lumber and other things? Wouldn't they demand a substantial increase?

MEANY: I don't know.

REPORTER: Thank you.

TRANSCRIPT OF:

PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1974 -- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**MEANY:** A number of statements have been distributed about various problems to which we addressed ourselves.

I would like to call particular attention to the statement on the retirement from the Council of Philip Randolph, who is past president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. This statement represents in a brief way what our thoughts are of Phil Randolph.

It would take a much longer statement to really do justice to Phil Randolph and the contribution that he has made over the years, not only to the advancement of the blacks in America and in the trade union movement but the contribution that he has made for the cause of human freedom all over.

It is kind of sad for me personally because of my close association with him, going back many years, to see him in retirement. That's the way things go and I want to publicly express appreciation and my great admiration for an old devoted trade unionist. Without casting any doubt on Martin Luther King who was, of course, the great proponent of non-violence, Phil Randolph carried the torch and, in the early years, in fact all his life, advocated progress without violence. He believed progress could be made without violence.

We have elected two new members of the Council. One in place of Phil Randolph and the other to take the place of John Griner, who died a short time back. John was with the American Federation of Government Employees.

The two new Council members are C.L. Dellums, who is president of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters, and Francis Filbey, who is president of our great Postal Union.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, is Mr. Randolph retiring because of illness?

**MEANY:** Well, yes. His health has failed but he is mentally alert. I talked to him a very short time ago and frankly I think the main reason he is retiring is that the doctor has told him that he does not want him to travel. He feels travel is dangerous for him. Phil Randolph is about 86. Mentally he is fine, but physically he has gone back.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, would you give us the reaction of labor to the latest Watergate disclosures?

**MEANY:** Well, the latest disclosure just adds to the wealth of evidence that the Congress will have before it under the impeachment proceedings. Looking at it, from just what is on the tapes, would indicate that the President did not tell us the truth when he said he didn't know about this operation and had nothing to do with trying to cover it up. He has been saying repeatedly that it wasn't until March 21, 1973 that he really found out what it was all about.

This tape indicates that he knew about it and was informed about it six days after it happened and it also indicates that he took action to clock the investigations that were underway at that time. In other words, that he at that time took action to cover up.

This is only one more in the great load of stuff which has come out which indicates that the President surely should be impeached. And surely should be tried by the Senate as failing to live up to his oath of office.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, on one of those tapes, the one I think at two o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd, the President mentioned Shultz as having done a good job on the Meany thing.

**MEANY:** I read that. I don't know -- I'll have to ask blue eyes about that when I see him. Because I don't know whether when he said Shultz did a good job on the Meany thing maybe he did an investigation and kept me off the enemies list. I really don't know. I'll have to talk to George about that.

I had just come back from Europe that week. I had been over to Europe about 10 days and I recall it right well because somebody had called my office, according to reports that developed later, demanding that I go to New York to talk to George McGovern. That he wanted me to come up there to see him and who was I not to go up -- this was a great opportunity to talk to the man who was going to be President. Anyway, I told them to go to hell. The story came out later that this was not Gary Hart at all but this was someone from Colson's office imitating Hart. That happened that very week, that is how I remember. But as far as what the President was talking to Shultz about, I have no idea.

**REPORTER:** Do you think that Shultz could have been a part of that plan to get Colson to call you?

**MEANY:** No. Of that I'm quite positive. No, not Shultz.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, yesterday you said the AFL-CIO was adopting a hands-off policy on impeachment lobbying activity. Does this latest development yesterday change that?

**MEANY:** No. No. We presented our position some months ago. We documented it for our own people and for our own paper. We distributed that documentation to the press. I think it was 19 items on which we thought the President should stand trial on impeachment charges and we finished that series of articles sometime in January. We have, of course, printed the news in our press since then but we sent word out then, or at least I did, to our people over on Capitol Hill that there was to be no traditional lobbying.

Now there is a difference between expressing an opinion on things that happen, and that, of course, we are going to continue to do. But lobbying is something different. Lobbying is where you go and you count noses. You see a Senator or a Congressman in his office and try to persuade him and put him on record. That we do every day of the week, on all sorts of legislation -- legislation that affects labor, legislation that affects consumers, legislation on civil rights, legislation on education. It is a day-to-day job that we do all the time with the staff, not with just the AFL-CIO but the staff of the international unions.

As far as I know, all of the unions have followed our lead. We are not lobbying on this question. We are not trying to press a Congressman or a Senator as to how he or she should vote. And as far as I'm concerned, we will not do that.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, does this news change your views on your desires for the President to resign?

**MEANY:** It does not. In fact, it reinforces my view that the President should resign.

I think it is quite clear that what we face for the next four months or so is certainly bad for this nation. We do not have a functioning executive branch. The President is not functioning as he should under these circumstances. And it is quite obvious why. The Departments are without direction. There are all sorts of unfilled positions. There is a complete lack of policy from the Executive branch. And, on the question of foreign affairs, how can a Secretary of State, a competent Secretary of State, operate when his principal is in a sense crippled, and the people across the world know this. So, this places an awful handicap on anyone who has to conduct foreign policy. We are going to have sort of a hiatus there for the next four months.

Then we have the schedule in the House where on the 19th of August they are going to start to debate the Judiciary Committee's report. It is going to take them a couple of weeks and, of course, it seems quite obvious that somewhere toward the end of August they will approve articles of impeachment.

The the President has to have a month or so in September to prepare his defense. Then the Senate goes into an impeachment trial around the first of October. So, when you look at it you see for the next four months a crippled executive branch really not functioning, and I don't think there is any room for argument of this, and, we see our legislative branch completely preoccupied with impeachment procedures for the next four months. So this means a period between now and perhaps Thanksgiving where there is going to be no real direction and I think this is bad.

I think it is bad for the country. I think it is bad for the people and for that reason I feel that it would be the best thing for the President under these circumstances to resign.

Now, the best he can hope for, and this is being practical about it, is to perhaps escape conviction by the Senate and if he does it will be by a narrow vote. And then we would have practically a lame-duck President for the next two years. I don't think that America -- and I'm looking at it from the point of view of the nation -- I'm looking at it from the point of view -- that Americans can afford to go through that sort of situation for the next two years.

**REPORTER:** Do you think that he would submit himself to the Senate?

**MEANY:** I don't know. He keeps saying that he will not submit a resignation and, of course, other people have said that and have changed their minds. Even today he said again that he would not submit his resignation. I merely say, as one individual, as one American citizen, that I think it would be the best thing for the country if he would submit his resignation and do it immediately.

**REPORTER:** What do you mean, you don't think the nation could take a lame-duck President for two years?

**MEANY:** Well, I think our economy would continue to go down hill. I think we are approaching a disastrous -- not a recession, we are in a recession now -- we are approaching a disastrous depression. We see the head of one of our largest banks saying that he hasn't dismissed the possibility of a panic, financial panic. And, I think that one of the contributing causes is the lack of confidence in this country in the Executive Branch at the present time. And I think a couple of more years of this would be disastrous.

**REPORTER:** If Gerald Ford becomes President, would you like to see him make changes in the current Cabinet?

**MEANY:** Oh, I don't think that it's a question of what I would like. I think that if Gerald Ford became President he would have to look at the Cabinet and he would have to appoint a Cabinet of the type of people that Gerald Ford would feel comfortable with. I think this would result in major changes in the Cabinet. I don't think that everybody would go down the drain but I think there would be major changes. I think this would just be normal -- a new man would want people close to him, people he knew better than the people that are in there. So I'm sure there would be changes.

**REPORTER:** Would you like to see a new Secretary of Labor?

**MEANY:** I'd like to see that tomorrow.

**REPORTER:** How about Kissinger?

**MEANY:** I think Kissinger is a very competent man in his position. I don't agree with some of the things that he is doing but he is doing things under the sponsorship of the President. He represents the President and I think he might do a much better job under some other President.

**REPORTER:** Who would you like to see as Vice President under a President Ford?

**MEANY:** I don't know, I'll have to look at that.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, do you foresee formation of a public employees department in the AFL-CIO?

**MEANY:** I'm chartering a public employees department today. I'm sorry I didn't tell you that but that is one of the things that I announced to the Council.

**REPORTER:** Who is going to be in charge of that?

**MEANY:** Whoever they elect. There are 12 unions and there will be more coming in and it will be whoever they select. That will be their job.

**REPORTER:** With a membership, of about how many?

**MEANY:** About 2 million.

**REPORTER:** Do you think you will ever see collective bargaining for public employees in Chicago as long as Richard Daley is mayor?

**MEANY:** I have no information on the collective bargaining situation in Chicago. If they don't have collective bargaining, I'd be a little bit surprised. I see collective bargaining widening for public employees all over this country. In other words, I don't think public employees are going to be any longer treated as a class of workers apart from other workers. They are the same as other workers; they have the same problems and no matter what special laws you write for them they will strike and they will strike successfully and that applies, in my book, to Chicago as well as any other city.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, Mayor Daley has been characterized as a friend of labor, and yet he, almost singularly among big city mayors, has dragged his feet on collective bargaining.

**MEANY:** I have no information on that and I really don't know anything about it. In fact, I'm a little bit surprised when you tell me that.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, have you given any thought to organizing professional athletes?

**MEANY:** No. From time to time that matter has come up to the Executive Council, but not in recent years. I remember here in Chicago, oh, a good many years ago a little fellow by the name of Marty McManus, who was the infielder for the old St. Louis Browns, came in and he met with a committee of the old American Federation of Labor Executive Council. We told him that we would not organize baseball players because they were independent contractors and that they did not fit into the trade union picture. We felt that the things that they were interested in could very well be accomplished by a sort of fraternal association with a good lawyer. And that is what has really happened. I think that the professional baseball players under Marvin Miller, their lawyer, are doing quite well.

Now, of course, the football players are trying to achieve somewhat the same result. They are starting a little later.

You see, when you bring people into the trade union movement, the first thing that you have to ask is "can we do something for them?" You don't bring them in just to have them in, just to put a trade union label on them. The second thing is: "Do they fit in to the movement?" After all in the movement we expect cooperation. We expect one union to help another. We expect one worker, who is in trouble, to be helped by other workers, who are closely associated with him. I can readily see where picket lines might be effective and I could see why they wouldn't be effective -- take a ball player, a football player getting \$25,000 a game -- it runs that high -- respecting a picket line to protect a \$4 a hour ticket seller.

So there is a community of interest that normally exists where there is a normal employer-employee relationship. These people are professional athletes and, in a sense, they are independent contractors. They contract for their own services. So, we have always felt that there was no real service that could be performed by a trade union that could not be performed or done for them by an association such as the baseball players have now.

**REPORTER:** Have they contacted you at all?

**MEANY:** No. No.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, about the Farm Workers. What is the status of that resolution yesterday? Have you talked to Mr. Fitzsimmons? Was there any progress?

**MEANY:** No. We reached an agreement with Fitzsimmons last year and it was quite comprehensive. It took a long time to negotiate. In fact, the agreement came after a full three days' session and then Mr. Fitzsimmons repudiated it after a meeting with his Executive Board. We have had no contact with him since. We are pursuing the boycott as the best means of helping the Farm Workers. In fact, it seems to be the only means now because, as far as physical possession of those fields out there we are up against the Teamsters, the Teamster goons. We are up against the state government which is very, very definitely on the side of the ranch owners. Our only recourse is the boycott and I think eventually we will do something for the Farm Workers by that method.

**REPORTER:** Are any AFL-CIO monies going to the Farm Workers at this point?

**MEANY:** Not directly, no. We, of course, gave them \$1.6 million last year as you will remember. They are getting help from the various unions but we do not have an AFL-CIO monthly allotment such as we had for many, many years.

They are collecting dues, of course, and they are getting help from other unions.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Meany, in view of Watergate and impeachment procedures, what do you see the outlook for the Congressional elections this fall?

MEANY: Well, I don't have any crystal ball but I do have some pretty solid information. As it stands now, it is going to be a disaster for the Republican party. I mean a real disaster. The people in the marginal districts who won by 6 or 8 or 10 percent a couple of years ago - many, many of them are going to go down the drain.

However, I'm a realist. There would be a tremendous change and a tremendous improvement in their prospects if Nixon would resign at this time.

I think this whole Watergate, as part of the Republican picture, would more or less disappear if the President would disappear from the political scene. But if he is still in there and this Senate trial is going on, with all this stuff that keeps coming out - in fact, there seems to be no end to Watergate revelations. They keep coming and coming and coming for months.

Somebody said the other day that the other shoe dropped. And a fellow said "No. That's the 465th shoe that dropped."

If this thing keeps going on and this scenario keeps developing until the first week of November, it just spells disaster for the Republicans. No matter what they say, they cannot divorce themselves from their man in the White House. He is Mr. Republican and should be, of course, they keep saying that the Republican party had nothing to do with CREEP, that CREEP was a separate institution.

Well, I don't think the average voter would make that distinction. CREEP was a Republican entity, just the same as the Republican National Committee but technically they were separate.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, two questions. Do you believe you will get a veto proof Congress?

MEANY: Well, when we say we want a veto proof Congress, we are thinking in terms of the many social programs that the President refused to fund and many things that we are interested in that he has been definitely against. We are thinking in terms of a Congress that can override vetoes. It is just as practical as that. You know, if you have the votes to override a veto, quite often you don't get a veto.

In September 1973 the President vetoed a minimum wage bill and that veto was sustained by a very, very small margin of votes. We passed that same bill in the spring of this year and we repassed it by such an overwhelming vote that we didn't get a veto. He signed the identical bill early this year that he vetoed last August or September.

So, when we demonstrated that the votes were there, we didn't get a veto and this is true of much legislation. Now, as far as the argument that we want to control the Congress, this is not so. We want a veto proof Congress so that the essential social legislation that we are interested in will not be knocked down by one-third plus one in support of the President. I think that when we look for a veto proof Congress, we are looking for something that is very practical.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, earlier you talked about some hard facts on the election. As things now stand, if the President is still in office, what type of numbers are you talking about?

MEANY: I'd say 60. They would lose 60 seats. They would go down to the lowest they have been in many years. I'll make that as a prediction. If he is still in there and we have got this thing unresolved, they will lose 60 seats.

REPORTER: In the House?

MEANY: In the House. I have no particular facts about the Senate.

REPORTER: Are you going to support Senator McGovern?

MEANY: Our people in South Dakota are supporting and have endorsed Senator McGovern. What you have to keep in mind is, we do not endorse Congressman or Senators in Washington. The only endorsements that we make in national COPE, or the AFL-CIO, is every four years we have an opportunity to endorse a candidate for President and a candidate for Vice President. All the other endorsements are made at the local level and at the state level. And we rarely quarrel with those endorsements.

REPORTER: Will you attend the Democratic mini-convention?

MEANY: No.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you have made your predictions on the Republican losses of 60 seats if the President stays in. You said it would be less if he resigns. Do you have a prediction in that event?

MEANY: No. No, I say their chances would be better if he were out of there.

REPORTER: Do you have any feelings that you are approaching a milestone in your life? Do you have any feeling about the political problems in Washington in relation to some of the things you have seen in past?

MEANY: You know to me it is a great time because things are happening everyday that there is no precedent for -- things that just never happened before. Every piece of news that I hear about on these tapes or what the President did or what he said or what memo's were altered and falsified. You just say, "incredible," "impossible." But these things happen.

REPORTER: Have you ever seen anything like that before?

MEANY: No. I don't think there is any question that there has never been corruption in government, at least at this high level, to the extent that there is today. You take Teapot Dome, I can tell you about that, I don't think there is anyone in the room that remembers it but me. But Teapot Dome was a good, old-fashioned case of graft. Simple, plain, ordinary graft. A fellow selling his soul and selling his influence -- a member of the Cabinet -- for money. There were two Cabinet members involved, Harry Daugherty was the Attorney General and Albert Fall who was the Secretary of the Interior. They were both indicted and Fall was convicted for selling access to the naval oil reserves to the Sinclair Oil Company. This was up at Teapot Dome in Wyoming.

But that was a very, very, simple, uncomplicated case of graft -- not legal graft but I mean real illegal graft.

When you compare that to Colson and Segretti, Haldeman and Ehrlichman and the President and Mitchell and everybody else involved, why it was nothing like Teapot Dome.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, do you think that COPE should include impeachment votes in its right and wrong votes in the fall?

MEANY: That is something we haven't decided but I think they should. And that's the way we will most likely decide, I guess.

REPORTER: What future do you see for organized labor after all your years in the labor movement?

MEANY: I'm quite optimistic about the future of organized labor. I've seen organized labor come from a fairly simple operation to a very sophisticated operation. Our people, like all of the other people in America, are better educated and we are trying to see to it that they are even better educated in the future. I don't think that I have ever seen labor so active in so many diverse areas that affect their lives, and not only their lives but the lives of the American people as a whole.

It was quite simple back in the old days. You didn't get enough money in the pay envelope -- why? Because the boss wouldn't give it to you. Now he had it but he just wouldn't give it to you. He was just an old meanie you know. He just wouldn't give you that sort of money. Then we would go to politicians and we would say "We don't like this legislation and because we don't like it we want you to vote against it." We don't do that any more. We present the facts and figures, legal arguments and all this sort of thing. We deal with everything that affects the American community. We deal with everything that affects education, civil rights, consumer protection and so on. The scope of our activities has expanded tremendously in my years in the trade union movement and I expect to see it expand further and I think we take a much more intelligent approach to the problems.

I think that we are going to continue to have an influence on the future of the country as a whole. I don't mean just politically. I mean in every other way. So, I'm quite an optimist about the future of the trade union movement.

REPORTER: The merger, did it play a substantial role in the labor movement?

MEANY: When we merged there was one objective that I had uppermost in my mind. That was to see that we didn't unmerge. So we are here now almost twenty years, and I see no weakness in our merger.

REPORTER: What do you see about the prospect of the Auto Workers coming back?

MEANY: Oh, I think, the Auto Workers should be back in the national trade union movement. I think all organizations that can meet the requirements should be in and I think that organizations that can't meet the requirements should not be in. As far as the Auto Workers are concerned, there is no reason they shouldn't be in. In my book there was no practical trade union reason for them to get out. We have very good relations with them. I have very good relations with Leonard Woodcock. We have good cooperation on many issues and I think time will take care of that. I'm quite sure they will be back.

REPORTER: What about the Mine Workers?

MEANY: Well, I don't know the Mine Workers. I met Miller, the president of the Mine Workers, only once and I don't know what the feeling is there. Of course, they were part of the trade union movement going way back to the early days. They seem to have some real internal problems still and they have certainly had other problems. They have a new contract coming up and I'm sure he is preoccupied with those problems. I don't see any reason why the Miners should not be part of the trade union movement as a whole.

REPORTER: Will you be aiding the Mine Workers in any way in their negotiations?

MEANY: No.

REPORTER: Any requests?

MEANY: No. He came in to see me with the Secretary treasurer as sort of a courtesy call. It was some months ago and we had a nice talk.

REPORTER: No technical assistance?

MEANY: No. Oh, no.

REPORTER: Have you had contact with Leonard Woodcock or other representatives of the UAW since their convention?

MEANY: I haven't had personally but I meet Leonard from time to time in meetings and my relationship with him is good. I haven't talked to him but I understand that some of their people have some reservations and some problems but as far as I know there is no good trade union reason why they should be out.

REPORTER: Mr. Meany, you were asked about the reaffiliation of the Teamsters and as I recall you suggested that it would be up to them to apply. Do you think the Teamsters would be eligible for readmission under your statutes?

MEANY: Many years ago we laid down a very simple prescription for the return of any union, any union that wants to accept the constitution and the rulings of the AFL-CIO. Now, you have to understand the Teamsters, while there was all this record of corruption and we knew about it, that was not really -- technically -- the reason why they were expelled. Under our constitution, we had a right to call in any union that was under suspicion of corrupt activity regarding handling of union financing and things like that. Now, the Teamster's situation was really much more than a suspicion because of statements given by officials of the Teamsters Union under oath. It was quite obvious that there was corruption and misuse of money. That is not to say that we proved that but there was a very, very strong suspicion. We call the Teamsters in and said that you have to appear before our Ethical Practices Committee and you have to explain your actions. And they said, "we will not appear. We will not." Then we said, "This is the constitution. You approved the constitution. Your president was one of the committee that wrote the constitution only two years before." Their reply was, "This is our business and we will not submit to questions."

So we put them out of the AFL-CIO on the basis that they would not abide by the Constitution.

Now, if they were to come back, of course, this question would still have to be answered. In this way there is a difference between them and the Auto Workers. The Auto Workers have no constitutional problem at all. In 1961, after a good deal of discussion at our Convention in Miami in December of that year, we practically invited the Teamsters to come back and to come back under the constitution. Now, at that time Hoffa was the president and he felt that he couldn't meet those conditions because if he came back he would have to answer some questions.

Right now, with the behavior of the Teamsters, especially in this Farm Workers thing, I would think there would be some other questions. You see this is a voluntary organization. It is voluntary in the sense that anybody can leave it. It is also voluntary in the sense that unions can say to another union that we don't want you.

Under the circumstances then, I tell you very, very frankly, while the Teamsters are doing the work of the growers in California, kicking these little Farm Workers around, I wouldn't want them back in the AFL-CIO.

REPORTER: Do you think that Jimmy Hoffa should be allowed back into the labor movement now?

MEANY: I think the restriction placed on Hoffa's parole is very unusual. I think it is unfair to place that restriction upon him, which means that he can't participate in the affairs of the trade union movement or in his own union. I would hope, however, that the Teamsters would never let him come back. It has nothing to do with his right as an individual to try to come back.

REPORTER: Thank you, Mr. Meany.

Meeting with the President

8/16/74 -- 10:30 a. m.

FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS  
PRESIDENT, TEAMSTERS UNION



August 15, 1974

To: David Hoopes

From: Philip Buchen

Because of having had the Meany meeting, we are trying to arrange to get Frank Fitzsimmons in at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow. The attached is the material furnished me by Peter Brennan.

Scheduling knows about the urgency of this and will let me know when the appointment is locked in.

Attachment

PWB:ed



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1975

MEETING WITH FRANK FITZSIMMONS

Wednesday, March 19, 1975  
11:00 A.M. (20 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Phil Buchen

I. PURPOSE

You requested this meeting as one of a series with labor leaders.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: You last met with Frank Fitzsimmons on December 18, 1974.

The following are specific subjects he might wish to discuss with you:

- Economic Condition of Trucking Industry. Generally, truck freight is down about 20% compared to a year ago. Construction and related materials are down from 13 to 20%, carriage of motor vehicles is down 30% and grain and farm products are down approximately 20%. There has been a small increase in coal and metals; otherwise, everything else is down. Despite an 8% rate increase in January, the total revenues for the trucking industry were down 22% in February and 17% in March. There is beginning to be a seasonal pickup in the carriage of food but the situation still appears to be fairly grim.
- Department of Transportation Regulations. There are three regulatory actions which have recently been taken by DOT that concern the Teamsters: First, the new regulations implementing the change in the 1974 Highway Act, which you signed in January, permitting an increase in the size and weights of trucks, have been promulgated by DOT but are somewhat restrictive. DOT took this position primarily because of

strong opposition from such lobbyists as the American Automobile Association and others, along with a move in Congress (lead by Edward Koch, D-NY, and 33 co-sponsors) to repeal the increase in its entirety. The Teamsters do support a safety-related amendment to the size and weight provision, limiting the amount of increased weight on the front axles to 10,000 pounds. However, if Congress does pass an amendment to the Highway Act, it likely will repeal the weight and size increase to the detriment of the trucking industry. Thus, our position of no amendments is probably the safest.

Second, the Teamsters are generally against strict enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit which DOT is implementing at your instruction.

Third, the Department has "hours of service" regulations, issued for safety reasons, which only permit ten hours of consecutive work in any fifteen-hour period. The Teamsters want to increase this to eleven or twelve hours and DOT does have it under review, but we understand they are likely to decide against the Teamsters.

- ° Deregulation. The DOT/OMB proposal to deregulate the motor carrier industry is currently being circulated among Federal agencies. No doubt word has leaked out on this and the Teamsters are indicating some opposition because they view it as resulting in a reduction in industry profits.

B. Participants. Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the Teamsters Union

John Dunlop, Secretary of Labor

Staff: Mike Duval

C. Press Plan: White House Photo only.

### III. TALKING POINTS

- I recognize that the two major points in my State of the Union Address impact directly on your activities:

First, the trucking industry has been severely impacted by rising prices and general economic conditions.



The inventory liquidation now going on is especially hard on the industry. We are expecting an upturn in the economy during the summer, and the trucking industry should be among the first to benefit.

Second, your industry has been greatly affected by the increase in the price of diesel fuel. The only way we can gain control over the price we have to pay for our oil, is through aggressive implementation of the energy plan I have proposed to Congress. As you know, I am considering tilting some of the impact of my proposal into gasoline and away from other petroleum products, including the diesel which you use in many of your trucks.

A key component of my plan is strict enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit. One of the ways I've tried to offset the reduced productivity this means to the trucking industry is by an increase in the size and weights of trucks. That is why I supported that provision of the 1974 Highway Act.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1975

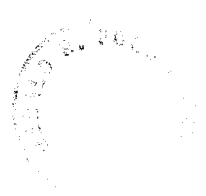
To Phil Buchen

From Bill Seidman *fwS*

As requested by Mike Duval, I would suggest that the Fitzsimmons meeting paper for tomorrow carry these additional comments as part of the first talking point:

First, the trucking industry has been severely impacted by rising prices and general economic conditions. The inventory liquidation now going on is especially hard on the industry. We are expecting an upturn in the economy during the summer, and the trucking industry should be among the first to benefit.

cc: Mike Duval  
David Hoopes



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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1975

TO: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: MIKE DUVAL *Mike*

Attached is a briefing memo for the Frank Fitzsimmons meeting.

I have asked Bill Seidman to provide a couple of lines on the economic condition of the trucking industry, which can fit in the bottom of Page 2 under the first talking point.

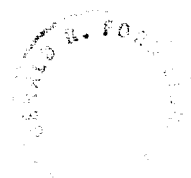
I don't know if you want someone from the staff to sit in, so I left blank.

*Phil also please list in the  
Press Plan -*

*White House photo only or*

*Press photo ??*

*I recommend W.H. Photo only.*



August 15, 1974

MEETING WITH FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS

Friday, August 16, 1974  
10:30 a.m. (30 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Philip W. Buchen

I. PURPOSE

Meeting follows your interest as expressed to Secretary Brennan for having meetings with labor representatives. On Tuesday, August 13, you met with George Meany.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: See attached information supplied by Secretary Brennan. (Tab A)
- B. Participants: Frank Fitzsimmons.
- C. Press Plan: Press photo opportunity or Dave Kennerly only. (Recommend press photo opportunity because it was given for Mr. Meany.)

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. I thank you for your warm and thoughtful telegram of August 9. (Tab B)
- 2. I would like to hear of your concerns for and suggestions about:
  - (a) The economic situation and the critical inflation problem.



- (b) Uniting the people of the country to gain wide support for initiatives which need to be taken to deal with vital current problems.
- (c) A national health plan.
- (d) Relationships between organized labor and the Department of Labor, as well as other government departments and executive agencies.



August 15, 1974

To: David Hoopes

From: Philip Buchen

Because of having had the Meany meeting, we are trying to arrange to get Frank Fitzsimmons in at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow. The attached is the material furnished me by Peter Brennan.

Scheduling knows about the urgency of this and will let me know when the appointment is locked in.

Attachment

PWB:ed



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: ~~DAVID~~ PARKER

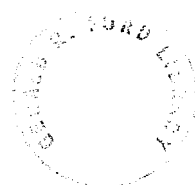
SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting with  
Frank Fitzsimmons

This is to confirm that the President will meet with Mr. Frank E. Fitzsimmons, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 16, 1974, in the Oval Office. The meeting will last approximately thirty minutes and unless otherwise notified, I will assume that you will be attending.

It is my understanding that Secretary Brennan has provided talking points which have gone to the Office of the Staff Secretary.

Thank you.

cc: Mr. Hartmann  
Amb. Rumsfeld  
Mr. Marsh  
Mr. O'Donnell  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Rustand  
Mr. Wardell  
Mr. terHorst



FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS, General President,  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Frank (Fitz) Fitzsimmons became head of the nation's largest union in June 1971, succeeding the then-jailed James R. Hoffa. Came up through the ranks of his union after starting as a Detroit dockman at age 18, and later working as an over-the-road truck driver. Served on President Nixon's Pay Board and on the Labor-Management Advisory Committee to the Cost of Living Council. Is a member of National Commission on Productivity.

TEAMSTERS

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America is the world's largest labor organization with 1,828,548 members in 807 local unions. The Teamsters held its amalgamation convention in 1903 under the sponsorship of the AFL. Today, the union is divided into three main categories. The largest block of members are engaged in trucking services; the second largest group is found in the warehouse industry; and the remaining members can be classified as industrial, food processing and clerical workers.

ISSUES

Following is Mr. Fitzsimmons's position on various issues:

FOREIGN

Opposed war in Vietnam but supported Nixon's efforts to bring about an honorable peace. Supports detente.

DOMESTIC

Favors new pension reform bill, an increased minimum wage law, improved worker's compensation legislation with federal standards, and a national health plan.

Favors increased efforts toward mass transportation, the "jobs for veterans" program, and energy conservation measures even though efforts to conserve use of gasoline, such as slower highway speeds, adversely affected teamster members.

Blames much of Nation's present economic condition on "bad legislation" passed by the Congress.

## POLITICAL

Endorsed Humphrey in 1968 and Nixon in 1972. He was a member of Democrats for Nixon. Has been a strong supporter of Nixon and most of his policies since then. Did not approve of the economic stabilization program because it controlled only wages and prices and not other types of income but served on Pay Board and did not walk out when other labor members left the board. Gave support to energy program even though it gave him great problems within his own union. He gave \$25,000 in union funds to support Rabbi Korff's campaign in support of President Nixon. A dissident group within the Teamsters is now challenging this expenditure of union funds.

He telegraphed President Ford on August 9 (see attached) pledging the support of the Teamsters and offering his personal help and cooperation.

SENDING BLANK

DATE August 9, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

You have the prayers and best wishes of the more than two million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters as you begin to draw this great nation together. We unite behind you in our common cause and pledge our support. If I personally can be of any help I want you to know that I am ready to cooperate in any way that I can. I send my heartfelt congratulations to you and my best wishes to your lovely family.

Frank E. Fitzsimmons  
General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

UNT #CDC 2004879

SMITTED VIA

MAILGRAM

PMS

TEL(T)EX

August 15, 1974

MEETING WITH FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS

Friday, August 16, 1974  
10:30 a.m. (30 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Philip W. Buchen

I. PURPOSE

Meeting follows your interest as expressed to Secretary Brennan for having meetings with labor representatives. On Tuesday, August 13, you met with George Meany.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: See attached information supplied by Secretary Brennan. (Tab A)
- B. Participants: Frank Fitzsimmons.
- C. Press Plan: Press photo opportunity or Dave Kennerly only. (Recommend press photo opportunity because it was given for Mr. Meany.)

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. I thank you for your warm and thoughtful telegram of August 9. (Tab B)
- 2. I would like to hear of your concerns for and suggestions about:
  - (a) The economic situation and the critical inflation problem.



- (b) Uniting the people of the country to gain wide support for initiatives which need to be taken to deal with vital current problems.
- (c) A national health plan.
- (d) Relationships between organized labor and the Department of Labor, as well as other government departments and executive agencies.



FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS, General President,  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Frank (Fitz) Fitzsimmons became head of the nation's largest union in June 1971, succeeding the then-jailed James R. Hoffa. Came up through the ranks of his union after starting as a Detroit dockman at age 18, and later working as an over-the-road truck driver. Served on President Nixon's Pay Board and on the Labor-Management Advisory Committee to the Cost of Living Council. Is a member of National Commission on Productivity.

TEAMSTERS

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America is the world's largest labor organization with 1,828,548 members in 807 local unions. The Teamsters held its amalgamation convention in 1903 under the sponsorship of a the AFL. Today, the union is divided into three main catagories. The largest block of members are engaged in trucking services; the second largest group is found in the warehouse industry; and the remaining members can be classified as industrial, food processing and clerical workers.

ISSUES

Following is Mr. Fitzsimmon's position on various issues:

FOREIGN

Opposed war in Vietnam but supported Nixon's efforts to bring about an honorable peace. Supports detente.

DOMESTIC

Favors new pension reform bill, an increased minimum wage law, improved worker's compensation legislation with federal standards, and a national health plan.

Favors increased efforts toward mass transportation, the "jobs for veterans" program, and energy conservation measures even though efforts to conserve use of gasoline, such as slower highway speeds, adversely affected teamster members.

Blames much of Nation's present economic condition on "bad legislation" passed by the Congress.

## POLITICAL

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DATE August 9, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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Frank E. Fitzsimmons  
General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

OUNT #CDC 2004879

NSMITTED VIA

MAILGRAM

PMS

TEL(T)EX

August 16, 1974

Dear George:

Nothing could please me more than to join with your many friends and colleagues at this luncheon in extending heartiest congratulations on your eightieth birthday.

I am sure, too, that our fellow citizens across the Nation share my hope that as you celebrate this milestone, you will take full and deserved satisfaction from the lasting accomplishments and contributions to America which have marked your long and distinguished career. I look forward to your continued help and cooperation as we work together to make our Nation a better place to live for all Americans.

Again, my congratulations and warm good wishes for the happiest of birthdays.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Ford*

Mr. George Meany  
American Federation of Labor  
and Congress of Industrial Organizations  
815 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

cc: Bill Baroody, Jr.  
Phil Buchen  
GRF:RLE:aby

