

13th Annual George Meany  
Awards Banquet

April 17, 1972

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FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR  
THE AMERICAN WORKING FAMILY. LABOR AND I HAVE BEEN  
TOGETHER IN THESE BATTLES.

TONIGHT I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT WHERE ALL  
OF US ARE--YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR HOPES, AND DREAMS,  
OUR COUNTRY.

I WANT TO PRAISE THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT FOR  
WHAT IT HAS DONE TO MAKE DECENT LIVES FOR ALL AMERICANS.

AND IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT TONIGHT WHEN WE SPEAK  
OF GEORGE MEANY, THAT WE LOOK AT PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
FUTURE HOPES.

THERE ARE SOME IN THIS NATION WHO TODAY SCORN THE  
WORKING MAN AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

THEY SAY THAT LABOR HAS BECOME MUSCLE BOUND AND  
UNRESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

THEY SAY THAT LABOR NO LONGER FIGHTS FOR THE LITTLE  
GUY, FOR THE MINORITIES, AND FOR THE POOR.

I SAY HOW TRAGICALLY WRONG THEY ARE.

LOOK BACK OVER THE HISTORY OF RECENT PROGRESSIVE  
SOCIAL LEGISLATION:

--WE COULD NOT HAVE PASSED MEDICARE WITHOUT THE  
BACKING OF THE AMERICAN WORKING MAN.

--WE COULD NOT HAVE BROKEN THE FILIBUSTER AGAINST  
THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WITHOUT LABOR'S HELP.

--WE COULD NOT HAVE PASSED THE WAR ON POVERTY, THE  
VOTING RIGHTS ACT, THE FOOD STAMP BILL WITHOUT LABOR.

AND, TODAY IT IS THE SAME: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND  
SAFETY, THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION,  
SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION,  
WORKINGMEN'S COMPENSATION REFORM, MINIMUM WAGES AND FAIR  
LABOR STANDARDS AND A HARD LOOK AT WHERE AMERICAN DOLLARS  
AND JOBS ARE GOING OVERSEAS.

AND THERE WOULD NOT EVEN BE A DEBATE OVER NATIONAL  
HEALTH INSURANCE IF LABOR WAS NOT BEHIND IT. IT IS LABOR

WHO IS FIGHTING OFF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES, THE AMA,  
THE BIG CORPORATIONS, AND THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION--  
ALL WHO WANT TO DEFEAT YOUR RIGHT TO COMPLETE AND  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE.

LABOR HASN'T GIVEN UP.

THIS YEAR LABOR FACES ITS MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE,  
ITS MOST MOST SERIOUS FIGHT: THE VITAL, CRITICAL  
NECESSITY TO DEFEAT RICHARD NIXON IN 1972.

FOR IT'S RICHARD NIXON AND HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES  
THAT HAVE PUT 5.4 MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK,  
INCREASED YOUR PAYROLL TAXES, BROUGHT INTO YOUR HOMES  
THE FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR JOBS AND NOT BE ABLE  
TO PAY YOUR BILLS.

FOR THREE YEARS RICHARD NIXON AND HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES HAVE CAUSED INCREASED INFLATION AND THE HIGHEST INTEREST RATES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.

IT IS RICHARD NIXON WHO GAVE A \$10 BILLION TAX BREAK TO THE GIANT CORPORATIONS WHILE YOU AND I GOT LESS THAN \$60 DOLLARS IN TAX RELIEF.

I'VE BEEN PATIENT LONG ENOUGH WITH RICHARD NIXON.

ALL OF US HAVE WAITED TOO LONG. ALL OF US HAVE SUFFERED TOO MUCH.

WE'VE HEARD PROMISES, WE'VE SEEN GAME PLANS, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A FREEZE AND NOW WE HAVE PHASE II CONTROLS. THEY'RE ALL A FAILURE. I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

TONIGHT I'M GOING TO TAKE MY GLOVES OFF AND TELL  
IT LIKE IT IS.

I CHARGE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PHASE II ECONOMIC  
POLICIES ARE A HOAX ON THE AMERICAN WORKER, A SHAM AND  
A CRUEL EXERCISE DESIGNED TO FOOL THE AMERICAN CONSUMER.

WE ARE TOLD BY THE WHITE HOUSE THAT PRICES ARE  
CONTROLLED--THAT THEY WON'T GO UP.

BUT YOU AND I KNOW BETTER. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING  
THAT'S NOT GOING UP--YOUR WAGES.

PRESIDENT NIXON STOOD BEFORE GEORGE MEANY AND THE  
AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN MIAMI NOT LONG AGO AND SAID THAT

PRICES WEREN'T GOING UP. HE ASKED THE MEMBERSHIP TO  
ASK THEIR WIVES IF THIS WASN'T THE CASE.

TONIGHT I ASK YOU: ASK YOUR WIVES IF PRICES ARE  
GOING UP. THEY'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW MUCH MORE IT COSTS  
TO BUY A WEEK'S GROCERIES AND HOW MUCH MORE IT COSTS TO  
BUY CLOTHING FOR THE KIDS.

LET'S LOOK AT HOW THESE SO CALLED "CONTROLS" AFFECT  
YOU.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS BACKPEDDLING ON PRICE  
CONTROLS. THEY TOLD US THAT INFLATION WOULD BE CUT TO  
LESS THAN 3 PER CENT A YEAR.

NOW, THEY ADMIT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. AND, THEY SAY

THEIR REAL GOAL IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR  
PER CENT A YEAR.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE BACKPEDDLING--AND FOR EVERY  
STEP IN REVERSE YOU PAY HIGHER PRICES--YOUR FOOD COSTS  
MORE, YOUR CARS COST MORE, YOUR TAXES ARE HIGHER, AND  
YOUR PAYCHECK IS LESS.

AND IF BACKPEDDLING WASN'T ENOUGH, THEY FILLED THE  
PRICE CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH HOLES BIG ENOUGH FOR A MACK  
TRUCK.

--75 PER CENT OF ALL RETAIL STORES HAVE NO CONTROLS  
--THESE ARE THE STORES WHERE YOU SHOP, WHERE YOU HAVE  
CHARGE ACCOUNTS--AND THERE ARE NO EFFECTIVE PRICE CONTROLS



HERE.

--YOUR RENTS ARE GOING UP--THE ADMINISTRATION  
CONVENIENTLY DECONTROLLED NEARLY HALF OF ALL RENTAL  
UNITS. AND MANY LARGE REAL ESTATE OPERATORS AND LAND-  
LORDS ARE GETTING RICH.

--THERE ARE NO PRICE CONTROLS ON USED CARS, ON  
USED TIRES,

--THERE ARE NO CONTROLS ON THE COST OF BUYING  
A HOME, ON WATER RATES, AND SEWER RATES, ON LIFE  
INSURANCE PREMIUMS, ON MORTGAGE RATES, AND ON MOST FOOD  
PRICES.

--AND MANY CORPORATIONS OWNED BY GIANT CONGLOMERATES

ARE NO LONGER EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED.

--MEDICAL COSTS, CAR REPAIR COSTS, DENTAL SERVICES,  
TELEVISION REPAIR SERVICES--NO EFFECTIVE CONTROLS HERE  
EITHER.

THESE CONTROLS ARE LIKE A GIANT SIEVE WITH LEAKAGE  
EVERYWHERE.

BACKPEDDLING, LEAKAGE, THE THIRD INGREDIENT IS  
NO EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.

NO ENFORCEMENT MEANS THAT THE CONSUMER IS NOT BEING  
PROTECTED, THAT PRICE VIOLATORS ARE NOT BEING PUNISHED,  
AND THAT RETAILERS CAN OPERATE WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING  
CAUGHT.

AND IF YOU DO HAVE A COMPLAINT, THE REGULATIONS ARE SO COMPLEX, SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND, THAT LAWYERS HIRED BY BIG STORES AND THE LARGE CORPORATIONS CAN FIND AN EXCUSE, A LOOPHOLE, AN OUT THAT WILL MAKE YOU PAY HIGHER PRICES.

THE PRICE AND WAGE SYSTEM SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN WORKING FAMILY CONSUMER.

BUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION DESIGNED THE ENTIRE SYSTEM TO PROTECT ITSELF.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY ALL THE PRICE AND WAGE HEARINGS ARE HELD IN PRIVATE?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY THE DOORS OF THE PRICE COMMISSION  
AND PAY BOARD ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE PRESS?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY ALL THESE RECORDS ABOUT DECISIONS  
WHICH AFFECT US ARE NOT MADE PUBLIC.

CLOSED DOOR POLICY-MAKING IS WRONG. AND PRESIDENT  
NIXON OUGHT TO STOP IT IMMEDIATELY.

FINALLY, THE PHASE II PROGRAMS OF THE REPUBLICAN  
ADMINISTRATION IGNORE THE UNEMPLOYED.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS, MR. PRESIDENT?

WHERE'S THE WORK?

WHERE'S HOPE FOR TOMMORROW FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE  
UNEMPLOYED MILLIONS?

THIS IS THE RECORD OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION  
PRICE CONTROLS.

THIS IS WHY RICHARD NIXON MUST BE DEFEATED IN 1972.

THIS IS WHY I AM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT IN 1972--TO  
INSURE THAT LABOR'S MOST CRITICAL BATTLE ENDS IN VICTORY.

AND, THIS IS WHY I ASK YOUR HELP.



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