Committee Fights Fund Impounding President Hints Support For Labor

House Agriculture Committee moved rapidly Monday toward a showdown with President Nixon over impounding funds appropriated for rural programs.

It held a quick holiday hearing on a bill to require the President to turn loose about \$120 million appropriated by Congress for rural water development grants. The grants would supplement loans through the Farmers Home Administration.

Another hearing was scheduled for Tuesday to hear the administration's side of the story, with indications the committee would act later this week, and probably favorably, on the bill.

Monday's witnesses supported the legislation, claiming many small rural communities could not proceed with their programs unless they received grants of half the projected costs.

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WASHINGTON (AP) - The program since 1965, with an estimated 2,650 rural water and waste disposal systems having been given financial aid.

James Farley of Farley, Mo., representing Public Water Supply District No. 2 of Platte County, Mo., said his district has been advised to seek grants from revenue-sharing funds administered

"There is no assurance there will be any revenue sharing funds available for this program," he said. "The demand for revenue sharing funds far exceeds the supply of such funds, and while the need for water in this area is great, the number of customers to be served by the enlarged system simply don't have enough clout on a statewide basis to make much of a dent in the state

Meanwhile, Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, D-Mo., introduced in the Senate an amendment to deny use of the Economic Stabilization Act as authority for presidential sociation, Columbia, Mo., said impoundment of money appropri-

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) -CIO leaders in a 40-minute visit Monday and it paid off with a strong hint of labor support for his tough new approach to stem

II.S. foreign trade losses.

"Whether we go along depends on the details," cautioned 78-yearold AFL-CIO President George Meany in discussing Nixon's yetto-be-announced trade legislation. But Meany said of Nixon's approach, "I think the whole idea has a whole lot of merit."

Nixon thanked the labor leaders for supporting his efforts to achieve "peace with honor" in Vietnam, commiserated with them over the effect of rising food prices on workers and explained he moved quickly to devalue the dollar last week because there was not time to wait for Congress to act, according to Meany and other informants in the closed

"He presented, from the viewpoint of a trade unionist, a very practical approach to trade" that would involve asking Congress

for the power to use a series of plus another 30 or so union presi-President Nixon courted AFL- options to bargain with other nations, Meany said.

Meany said he told Nixon that "any nation that closes the door on us, on our products, we should turn around and close the door on them," as a bargaining lever, and that Nixon appeared to be moving in that direction.

In addition to economic issues, Nixon said he expressed his appreciation during the meeting for the support "most of the leaders" of organized labor had given "our programs of national defense and to achieve peace with honor . . ."

Meany said afterwards at a news conference: "I think he brought the war to an honorable conclusion."

Meany said there were some things on which the AFL-CIO disagrees with Nixon, including proposals for a lower federal wage for teen-agers and his budget cuts for some social programs.

In the closed meeting with Nixon were the 35 members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council,

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dents, representing nearly 14 ed upon food rationing as a meas-

tary Ronald Ziegler said the President told labor leaders that the problem of rising food prices 'will be with us for at least another six months" but after that would level off because of steps planned and already taken to increase domestic food supplies. Nixon referred specifically to rising meat prices, Ziegler said, and noted that meat import quotas already have been lifted.

'Drug War' Shapes Up In Legislature

Texas Press Association AUSTIN-A new kind of "drug war" seems to be shaping up in the Legislature.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe spelled out his recommendations for complete revision of drug laws and promised to "lobby hard" with all the resources at his command as governor to get the bill passed.

As introduced in the House and Senate, it called for harsh penalties against dope pushers, annual registration of those who deal in legal drugs - and lowering the penalty for first offense possession of marijuana to a misdemeanor.

Briscoe's bill would allow possession of up to eight ounces of marijuana without risking felony charge on first offense. However, the misdemeanor would be punishable by up to a year in jail and/or \$2,000 fine. The Governor also called for stepped-up education and rehabilitation programs. The bill was drawn, said Briscoe, to mesh with the 1970 federal controlled substance act to allow governments at all levels to work more effectively together.

A few days later, however, former Sen. Don Kennard of Fort Worth, who headed a Senate study committee on drug abuse, assailed the governor's proposals as "an out-and-out fraud as a reform measure." Sen. Chet Brooks of Pasadena introduced in bill form the far-reaching provisions of Kennard's committee.

Brooks' bill would "decriminalize" marijuana possession and set moderate felony penalties for sales. It would also make simple possession of most drugs (heroin excluded) a misdemeanor and provide for commitment of users to rehabilitation facilities. On the other hand, it would call for nonparoleable life sentences of convicted "big time" heroin dealers.

The controversy continues to boil on the reduction of penalties on use of marijuana - and increasing penalties on those who sell marijuana or hard drugs.

H.B. 86 by Rep. Lindon Williams implements more stringent penalties on those who sell drugs. It is backed by the Austin based Legal Drug Control Society, headed by E. E. Armistead.

Nixon indicated that he frownmillion workers in the 119 unions. ure to hold down prices. Ziegler After the meeting, press secre- said the President observed that rationing had been "tried and had not worked."

Ziegler said Nixon stressed that the way to cope with the food price problem was to in-

The press secretary, who sat in on the meeting and said that

crease supplies.

no questions were asked by the labor leaders after the President finished his comments, said that Nixon promised an "open door policy" in consulting with labor leaders on economic issues.

As for his proposed trade legislation, Ziegler said Nixon described a "safeguard system to deal in over-all trade policy in the best interest of the United

Legislative-Executive Showdown

these days" over the U.S. legislative struggle was predicted Friday by Senator Walter F. Mon-

"I think the American people

fairs address. The conference concluded Sat-

"If the president gains the power he is attempting to obtain, shattered," he said.

Mondale seemed most incensed with executive attempts to gain power of the federal purse. The senator mentioned President Nixon by name only once in his 80-

"His impoundment of appropriated funds wiped out 100 programs that Congress signed into law," Mondale said, "on a unilateral - and I think unlawful - decision on his own without telling anyone about it."

Scuttled programs the senator mentioned included education, housing for the poor and elderly, disaster loans and environmental protection.

"Everything designed to give a chance to people who are kind of outside the system, the poor, aged and those of different color or origins, was cut out," he said,

"We should have been listening to the poor 100 years ago, and we'd all have been better for it," Mondale claimed. "If we believe equal opportunity, America will have one set of laws under the Constitution, rather than an extra set for special interests."



Predicted By Minnesota Senator A "high noon showdown one of tive form of government will be

The Minnesota Democrat who

is widely discussed as a 1976 presidential nominee would not speculate on the date of the clash.

are more decent and want to hear the truth more than some want to believe," Mondale said in a Student Conference on National Af-

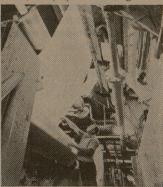
urday its four-day examination of controls imposed on society, with a wrapup speech by New York psychoanalyst Dr. Rollo

In an unstoppered attack on Nixon administration policies, Mondale listed three current threats to American liberties. He discussed increasing power of the executive branch, growing government intimidation of licensed electronic media and the press. and use of police state tactics.

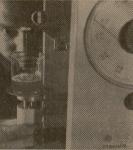
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