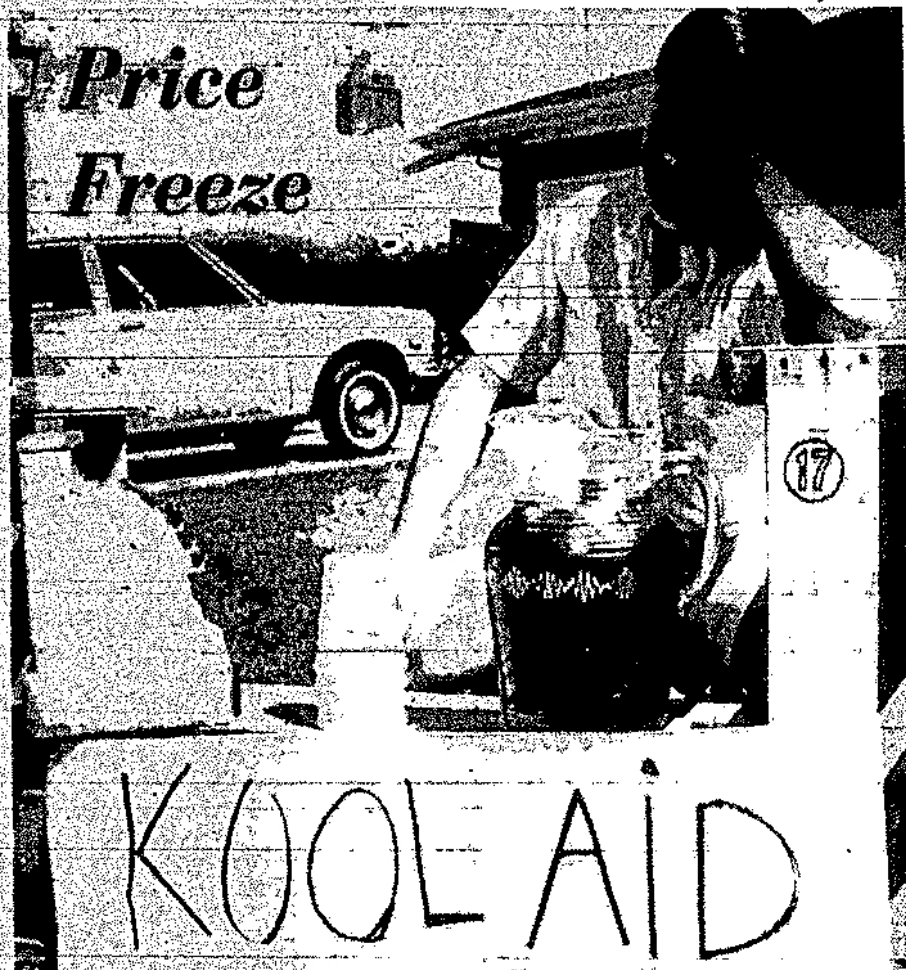


# Nixon Asks Unions to Halt Strikes, Avoid New Ones



## Anti-walkout Action Hinted

AP, UPI

WASHINGTON — The Nixon administration asked labor unions yesterday to halt all current strikes and to avoid new ones during the 90-day wage-price freeze period. And it hinted broadly at legal action to bar walkouts if its request is ignored.

"I am requesting that the labor and management leaderships cooperate by terminating stoppages and returning to the bargaining table during the period of the wage-price freeze," said the chief federal labor mediator J. Curtis Counts.

Counts told a news conference the administration believes it has the legal authority under the law authorizing the wage-price freeze to order all strikers back to work for the 90 days, but prefers voluntary cooperation.

A spokesman for the 13.5-million-member AFL-CIO had no comment on the request but said the labor organization's executive council will discuss it at a scheduled meeting tomorrow on the wage-price freeze issues.

"We are not holding a club over them," Counts said but added he was not ruling

out the possibility of mandatory back-to-work orders for union workers who refuse to do so voluntarily.

He said some 150,000 workers currently are involved in 363 strikes, including the walkout of dockworkers that has paralyzed West Coast shipping for weeks.

Whether the freeze blocks pay increases for teachers, policemen and other state, local and federal government employees will be reviewed by President Nixon's Cost of Living Council, the Office of Emergency Preparedness announced late yesterday.

An OEP spokesman said the agency hopes for a decision today.

As for higher school tuition, the Treasury Department said it would be permitted to take effect because many students already had enrolled under increased fee schedules and many had made partial payments for their classes.

In addition to workers now striking for more pay, about 900,000 people who are covered by labor contracts due to expire in the next three months are wondering if they might somehow qualify for pay raises.

Still congressional action due in tax cut. Page B.

## Nixon Plea to Nation: