

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Carter is heading for his first face-to-face meeting with AFL-CIO President George Meany -- a meeting that could be the key to winning enthusiastic

, Support from organized labor if he captures the Democratic presidential nomination.

Aides to both men described today's meeting in Meany's office across Lafayette Park from the White House as a chance for them to get to know one another. No endorsement was expected to come from the session.

_' Carter headed into the session fully aware that labor leaders generally preferred Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey or Henry M. Jackson. But he also knew that-with his candidacy gaining momentum, labor may need him more than he needs them.

The former Georgia . governor's stunning victory in the Pennsylvania primary showed that he could win the "'lunchbucket"' vote, despite the opposition of several important union leaders who endorsed Jackson.

Carter has had help from a coalition of liberal unions and in recent weeks has stepped up his efforts at wooing new labor support.

Democratic presidential candidates

_ have traditionally benefitted from the AFL-CIO's support in terms of money and manpower. A rare exception was in 1972°when the candidate, Sen. George McGovern, incurred Meany' wrath and the labor federation sat out

_the election.

Meany, who at one time or another

. has met with all of the Democratic candidates except Carter, has said any of them would be acceptable with

the exception of Alabama Gov.
George C. Wallace.

Although known to be cool to.
Carter, he told his political strategists
last month to stay out of any stop-
Carter drives.

AN AFL-CIO official said today's
meeting would give Meany a chance
to study Carter and find out where he
stands on issues concerning labor,
such as jobs and the economy.

"If Meany sees that Carter can
level with him while sitting across the
table, it will help," the official said.

Some labor leaders are weighing
individual endorsements for Carter
and there has been some talk that the
AFL-CIO ought to abandon its pre-
convention neutrality. But officials of
the giant labor federation insist that
no endorsements would be made until
after the conventions. .