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# Meany Suggests Reuther Chooses to Ignore Democratic Process in Executive Council

*By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter*  
MIAMI BEACH — AFL-CIO President George Meany struck back at the charges Walter Reuther has been hurling at him and at the labor federation. But he purposely sidestepped any frontal assault on the United Auto Workers chief himself.

Mr. Meany, at a press conference, read a carefully worded statement which, without ever referring directly to Mr. Reuther, told the UAW president that the place to make complaints is inside the federation, not outside. The statement, and Mr. Meany's answers to reporters' questions, left no doubt of the federation chief's conviction that no useful purpose will be served by an open battle now over Mr. Reuther's resignation from the AFL-CIO Executive Council and his charges that the federation is "stalled on dead center" under the Meany leadership. [For an examination of what Mr. Reuther hopes to achieve by his independent course, please turn to page 18.]

Mr. Meany stoutly refused to expand on his nine-paragraph statement. "There it is," he said, holding up the statement. "That's all there is to it."

In the statement, which was adopted unanimously by the 28-member Executive Council, the federation president replied to Mr. Reuther's complaint of "undemocratic" Meany con-

trol of the council by declaring that it operates on "an open agenda."

"Any matter that any member of the council desires to have considered by the council is considered, fully and freely, to the point of decision," the statement said.

Then he directed a barb at Mr. Reuther's inability to rally voting strength on the council by adding: "There is only one limitation upon the extent to which any individual or any organization within the trade union movement can influence the direction of the AFL-CIO, its programs and policies or the character and identity of its leadership: As in any democratic order, they must be able to persuade the majority that their complaints are valid, that their proposals are sound, and that their alternatives are preferable. Neither size, financial resources, nor extravagance of language can overcome or substitute for that simple basic requirement."

Mr. Meany said the vacant Reuther seat is to be filled at this session of the council. But he declared that he wouldn't "discuss the Reuther case any other place" but within the councils of the AFL-CIO. He insisted that "there is no feud. I haven't had a cross word with Reuther in the last five years" except over last year's walkout of the delegation to the International Labor Organization meeting, when a Communist-bloc country representative was elected temporary chairman. "I have had nothing but the nicest relations" with Mr. Reuther, he remarked.

To questions about possible AFL-CIO involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Meany said he "knows nothing about" reports that the American Newspaper Guild, an AFL-CIO affiliate, received CIA money for international activities through several foundations. Asked if the CIA had financed any AFL-CIO operations, Mr. Meany snapped: "Absolutely not." Victor Reuther, brother of Walter and head of the UAW's international department, had claimed that the CIA had funneled money into Latin America through the American Institute of Free Labor Development, an organization partly supported and financed by the AFL-CIO.

Mr. Meany added that he has a "natural, ingrained opposition to spy operations." He said he feels that the CIA can fulfill its role "without subsidizing the trade union movement."