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DETROIT, MICH. NEWS

E - 682,834
S - 917,360

JAN 26 1957

Vic Reuther Again Ties CIA, Labor

Victor Reuther, director of the UAW's international affairs department, said yesterday that he will stand behind statements that he made indicating that the AFL-CIO is involved with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in foreign affairs.

Reuther was here yesterday for speeches at Wayne State University and the Wayne County AFL-CIO's first of a series of labor forums. He discussed the UAW's involvement in foreign affairs.

He denied he had ever said that the CIA was involved in operations of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD).

"At no time did I make any statements concerning a connection between the CIA and the AIFLD," Reuther said.

However, he said he would "stand on the statements I made" concerning CIA involvement in AFL-CIO foreign affairs.

Early last year, Reuther, who is an administrative assistant to his brother, UAW President Walter P. Reuther, indicated that the government was using the AFL-CIO, as a front in a number of areas.

The charges led to one of two serious disputes between the UAW and the AFL-CIO over foreign policy. The UAW has since announced that it will go its own way on important policy decisions.

Reuther also said that a "clear, clean military victory in the historic sense" cannot be accomplished by either side in Vietnam.

He said that the war could only be ended by a "political settlement" through political conferences at the bargaining table.

Reuther said the situation in Vietnam is "not without hope" and said that the current unrest in China could have a pronounced affect on the position that Hanoi takes in the future.

Reuther, according to press releases, was scheduled to discuss the UAW's current dispute with the AFL-CIO on foreign policy and other matters, but announced upon his arrival that his subject actually concerned labor and its role in foreign relations.