

AUGUST 28, 1966

STAT

## AFL-CIO Board Avows, 23-2, The CIA Has Not Infiltrated

(Special to The Worker)

CHICAGO — The AFL-CIO executive council meeting here, by a vote of 23 to 2, approved the activities of its foreign affairs network which operates as the American Institute for Free Labor Development.

George Meany, AFL-CIO president, reported to the press that the executive council "rejects out of hand the campaign of vilification directed against it."

In reply to newsmen Meany said that Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, and Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, had voted against the resolution, that Jacob Potosky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, had abstained, and that three members of the council were absent.

Meany told the press that the opinion had been expressed in the council that Victor Reuther, head of the UAW's international affairs department, had "made a mistake and shouldn't have made the statement he did." He refused to say who had expressed that opinion.

Victor Reuther had charged some months ago that Jay Lovestone, head of the AFL-CIO's international operations, was "involved" with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Asked to spell out the criticisms of the AIFLD, Meany said, "fomenting revolutions, running training schools for company unions and acting as an agent of the State Department and the CIA."

"What prompted this criticism?" he was asked.

"Does the Daily Worker need prompting to vilify the AFL-CIO?" he replied.

A newsman asked "But

weren't there any other sources of criticism?"

"Oh! there were some criticisms in The Nation and some other publications," Meany replied.

He was asked if there were any specific charges that CIA agents had infiltrated the AFL-CIO's international department, "No, just that it was working for the CIA," said Meany.

"The only specific criticism was that the Food and Drink Union was working with the CIA in Panama and that this caused the International Secretary of the Food Union to close down its Panama office. Joseph Beirne (President of the Communications Workers of America) who made the lengthy report to the council meeting, and the Food union international secretary investigated and reported that the union had closed all its Latin American offices "as an economy move."

Meany was the only one of the 29-member council at the press conference, affording the newsmen no opportunity to get the other side of the controversy.