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Ramparts Hits Meany On Denial of CIA Links

Ramparts magazine, continuing its criticism of the Central Intelligence Agency, disputes President George Meany's denial that the CIA financed the international operations of several AFL-CIO unions.

In its April issue, the magazine said three unions have cooperated with the CIA--the American Newspaper Guild (ANG), the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Jay Lovestone, AFL-CIO director of international affairs, and Irving Brown, AFL-CIO European representative, were named by Ramparts as organized labor's principal liaison officers with the CIA.

Strident Anti-Communist

"The American government has contracted out both its open and secret foreign relations with workers and trade unions in other countries to Meany and his secretary of state, Lovestone," said the magazine.

Lovestone is a former head of the American Communist party who became a strident anti-Communist. Ramparts last month touched off a major controversy when it disclosed that the CIA had provided extensive but covert financial support to the U.S. National Student Association and other youth groups.

President Johnson last week endorsed the report of a Cabinet-level commission that called for the end of covert financing of

"educational or private voluntary organizations," but did not specify whether labor organizations were to be included in that policy.

Ramparts said Meany is either "a liar or a fool" in denying knowledge of CIA financing of the several unions.

Ramparts said that "every month for many years" checks from CIA conduit agencies were made out to O. A. Knight, president of the OCAW, who endorsed them over to the International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical workers "to finance its 10 offices in all parts of the world."

'Cut off Operations'

But when A. L. Grospiron was elected president of the union in 1965, he "quietly cut off CIA ties as soon as he took office, resisting all pressures applied to him to keep them intact," the magazine added.

The magazine said the AFSCME also "cut off the CIA operation" in 1965 after a new president was elected.

No details were provided concerning the ANG, but the union recently announced that it was dissolving its relationship with five foundations alleged to be CIA fronts which financed its international program.

Ramparts also said "the CIA has been involved in the work of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), allegedly a private organization of union leaders and businessmen, operating extensively throughout Latin America."