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CIA's Labor front in Africa

Token aid hides mass

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By GEORGE MORRIS
(Last of 3 articles)

Since the 1957 exposure of the way the CIA used a network of dummy foundations to channel funds for the numerous labor, student, research and cultural organizations fronting for it around the globe, the emphasis has shifted to an assortment of inconsequential "aid" projects financed by the U.S. Agency for International Aid as covers for intelligence

The financing is open and on the record for such purposes, but the actual extent of the aid is just a shade above nothing.

Irving Brown, executive head of the African American Labor Center, claims he now has 34 projects in 16 African countries. He boasts of a Kenya Tailoring Institute to teach Kenyans how to sew, vocational training in Addis Ababa for several dozen in building trades crafts, a medical clinic in Ghana, and similar undertakings. They are frequently publicized in the AFL-CIO press to give an impression that they have a great impact on the economic and social development of Africa.

Strictly for show

In substance, these projects are of the small-potatoes variety, like those in Latin America which the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) publicizes in multi-colored pamphlets. They are strictly for show in the financial books, an excuse to place agents and make contacts.

Why then should the U.S. government give AIFLD more than \$5 million annually and AALC about \$2 million annually (and who knows how much more)? Why put such vast amounts of money under the supervision of an Irving Brown? Does Brown possess a special talent for organizing industrial, technical, social and educational projects?

An article in the May 20, 1967, Saturday Evening Post by Thomas Braden, who was special assistant to CIA chief Allan W. Dulles in 1950-54, threw some light on where Brown's and Jay Lovestone's talents lie. Braden who called his article, "I'm Glad the CIA is 'immoral,'" boasted that he originated the idea of secretly financing labor, student and other organizations for CIA services and defended the idea at the moment when the country was shocked by the CIA disclosures.

Still has receipt

Braden said he still has the yellow faded paper on which Brown gave him a receipt for \$15,000 taken from CIA vaults in 1947 because "he needed it to pay off the strongarm squads in Mediterranean ports," that Brown hired against left-led French and Italian dock workers.

Similarly Braden described how, because the militant left-led labor unions in Europe were a major obstacle to the CIA, the CIA turned to Meany and Lovestone who, Braden said, "had an enormous grasp of foreign intelligence operations."

"Into the crisis," he wrote, "stepped Lovestone and his assistant Irving Brown. With funds from Dubinsky's union, they organized Force Ouvriere, a non-Communist union. When they ran out of money they appealed to the CIA. Thus began the secret subsidy of free trade unions which soon spread to Italy."

The men whom the AFL-CIO