

STATINTL

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# CIA-Labor Ties To Openly Charged

CPYRGHT

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THERE will be more daggers than cloaks flying around a closed room in Chicago's Hotel Ambassador East come Aug. 22. If the "intelligence community" of labor's high command is as well-informed as it usually is, the word is that the Reuther brothers plan to give the Central Intelligence Agency another going over. Their position is that the CIA is active in the labor affairs of the world—and probably inside American unions, too.

The brothers, Walter and Victor, disapprove. And at least Victor has openly charged that labor's president George Meany and his International Affairs director, Jay Lovestone, work closely with the CIA.

It will all come to a loud and angry showdown during the AFL-CIO Executive Council (high command) session.

No matter which side wins, the CIA, which undoubtedly has a unit of labor specialists doing what comes naturally in a world rapidly going labor, will lose. Certainly some of its classified activities will be made public.

For some weeks now, Victor Reuther's people have had a small task force here digging up what they can to bolster his charges that Meany and Lovestone virtually are CIA agents. They have a skilled and prolific writer weaving the material into one document which could be published easily. Insiders believe that this will be published as a pamphlet just before the Council meeting.

ANGER inside the Meany camp over the original and recent charges by Victor Reuther has been compounded by reports that the younger Reuther, 54-year-old Victor, alleged Meany-Lovestone intelligence activity.

Meany's people believe that Victor Reuther's statements to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman prompted Mr. Fulbright to suggest publicly that the CIA intervenes in U. S. union elections.

The Senator freely discussed the matter with me:

"This is one of the questions which had been in my mind," said the gentleman from Arkansas. "I have had suggestions that they (the CIA) had taken a very strong part in labor union organization in the Dominican Republic. I believe they have worked hand in glove with Meany's crowd in the AFL-CIO. But I truly don't know whether there has been any interference in American unions. I tried to get that answer from the former (CIA) Director Raborn. But he would not reply."

This matter of alleged CIA operations inside labor had followed by a month the flare-up over Victor Reuther's open attack, not only on Meany and Lovestone, but upon the American Institute for Free Labor Development. Victor Reuther had asserted that sections of AIFLD had been used by CIA agents, especially in Panama.

AIFLD is jointly sponsored by labor, management and Government. Meany is president; J. Peter Grace, of the famed steamship line, is chairman of the board. But the active executive is a battling Irishman, Joe Beirne, head of the Communications Workers of America. He is AIFLD secretary-treasury.

It is the opinion of many observers who have been out in the field, including this columnist, that AIFLD has done mighty constructive work. It educates some 20,000 workers and labor officials throughout Latin America. It builds worker-owned housing in the slum areas of big cities such as Mexico City.

It has put up social and welfare and clinic centers in such impoverished areas as Carpiná, in Brazil's rural northeast, which I visited last year. It provides disaster aid. It builds playgrounds.

What has angered Meany, Beirne and Lovestone most has been the effect on the AFL-CIO's international work. It would be hampered in its bolstering of free unions abroad.

Even if there were a CIA-AFL-CIO link somewhere, why should such aid to one's country be considered by anyone to be anathema?