

their flood-damaged homes. In Bolivia, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union of Oruro has received approval of an Impacts Projects loan to repair the union's mausoleum in the city's cemetery. Just think of that one.

In Colombia, the Workers Union of Valle have received approximately \$1,200 from the Small Projects program for repairs to their Workers' University. An Ecuador Impacts Projects grant was approved for the campesinos of Alaquas to purchase materials needed to construct two additional classrooms for the town school. In Peru alone, some \$347,800 has been approved by the Peruvian Housing Bank under the provincial program for the oil workers of Talara to build 117 houses. An Impacts Projects loan of \$1,760 was approved for the purchase of cutting and perforating machines for the use of a printing co-op run by the former members of the printers unions of Piura.

This gives you an idea of some of the activity that is going on down there. This has been only an outline of what we are doing, but we are trying to help the workers in these countries and to help the countries themselves, because Latin America will never come into the 20th century unless and until the mass purchasing power of the people of these countries is raised. The idea that you can build a successful society on the basis of wages that are so low that people can't purchase the things that you can make is, of course, of the last century. We hope to change that.

There are still many problems in Latin America, still too many military establishments in power. The wages are still too low. The gap between the very poor and the very rich indicate that we have a very long way to go. However, we think that we have a program that will bring progress in the long run. We hope we are making a contribution that will help the Latin American workers over the long haul. We think we are on the right track. I am rather proud of my part in it.

We now have 76 acres down on the shores of the Shenandoah River in Front Royal. We have a very lovely old house there. We fixed it up a little bit. We are going to enlarge it, and I am sure this is going to be a permanent institution and that eventually it will not just be a seat of learning for our Latin American friends, it will be a worker university that will serve all the workers, not only of Latin America, but also our own people here in the United States.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Is AIFLD supported in whole or in part by the CIA?

Meany: AIFLD is supported in whole or in part by AID, which is the Agency for International Development, and not by one cent from the CIA. It is supported in whole or in part by American business and American labor. And, so there will be no misunderstanding, it is supported by quite a large sum of money by AID under a contract—and we can show you a copy of the contract—signed by myself as the president of the American Institute and signed by the Agency for International Development. I think that our share of AID funds for fiscal 1966 was \$4 million. So when you get that kind of money, why do you have to run to the CIA?

Question: Do you think it will be possible to expand the AIFLD program to Africa and Asia?

Meany: Well, actually, we have already set up an African program—we call that the African-American Labor Center. It's set up in New York. We are financing it with AFL-CIO money and with some assistance from AID.

However, Africa presents an entirely different problem. There have been unions in Latin America for many, many years. Latin America has had some trade union experience. In Africa—and we have a staff work-

ing on this now—in these newly emerging countries we find they don't have unions. In fact, all you had in most of these colonial countries were the white settlers and the so-called native labor. We are working on this and actually our work in Africa at the present time is not so much to try to build unions—we help there, we helped them by what they need mostly—transportation—Land Rovers, as they call the British answer to the American Jeep. They need multi-graphing machines and loudspeakers and things like that. Most of our work in Africa, up to the present time, is vocational training. We are running a sewing school in Kenya; we have a chauffeurs school in Lagos and this sort of thing. It will be some time before we will get things in shape in Africa where we could embark on a program similar to the AIFLD program in Latin America. But, I can say to you quite frankly, when that time comes, I am quite hopeful that we will set up an institute for Africa.

Question: Do you feel that perhaps your training program in Latin America is too sophisticated for the average Latin American labor movement worker? Is the training program geared properly to the level of education you are trying to reach?

Meany: We have found out that it is not too sophisticated. We have found out that the Latin Americans are wonderful students and, as I said before, I could not go into all phases of this work. We make a survey as we graduate young men. We make a survey to see what happens to them—to see where they go. Frankly, we lose a few. Very few. Very few go back and find employment outside the trade union movement. I would say 9 out of 10 boys that we have graduate since 1962 from the school have gone to work for their trade unions.

And I am sure Dick Ishmael can tell you and vouch for this—that in the struggle for free unions in Guyana, the struggle which was engaged in between Communist dominated unions and free unions—we had eight graduates from AIFLD who played a very, very prominent part in the struggle.

I don't think our program is too sophisticated. We find that most of the people that they send up to us here have high school educations so there is no problem there. We had no trouble getting 15 trade unionists with college educations that we sent to Loyola for our special course in labor economics.

So the answer to the question is that our program is not too sophisticated.

Question: Mr. Meany, do you feel that further strike turmoil in the United States this year will put Congress in the mood for some general labor law reform? In other words, strengthening of the Taft-Hartley Act, etc.?

Meany: I think Congress is already in that mood. And, as far as I am concerned, we are going to fight any labor control legislation that is compulsory. And we are going to look with a great deal of suspicion on any former friends who tell us that it is good for us.

Question: Hoffa has been convicted. Is there a plan afoot to bring the Teamsters and their 1 1/2 million members back into the AFL-CIO?

Meany: No comment. No comment.

Question: What is the AFL-CIO doing to compel craft unions to accept meaningful numbers of Negro apprentices and journeymen?

Meany: I would say that from what I know about the craft unions that they are ready to accept meaningful numbers of Negro apprentices and journeymen, but the problem here is, and I'm sure you can verify this by going around the country and making a little inquiry, that we don't seem to get Negro apprentices. They seem to feel that there is some other way to get into the craft unions.

Now when I was a whole lot younger there was another way to get in the craft unions.

You just decided you wanted to work as a plumber or do electrical work or something else, and you went and got yourself a job as a helper or an apprentice. But that is no longer possible. You cannot become an apprentice at these trades unless you have a high school education. You can't possibly qualify for the trade unless you have a high school education.

So what some of our Negro organized groups fail to understand is that the only way you can come into these trades and make the grade is through apprenticeship training. You take someone who has been a handy man and put him in my union, give him a full-fledged card and at the end of a couple of years he would be telling you that he couldn't get any work and of course he wouldn't get any work unless he was qualified.

We have thousands of men at Cape Kennedy in my union.

The electrical workers have thousands of men, iron workers, sheet metal workers, and the type of work that they do there bears absolutely no relation to the work that we used to do in the building line. My union, the Plumbers International Union, has 700 full-time instructors in this country—700 full-time instructors for their apprentices. They use Purdue University every summer for a two-week course to upgrade their instructors and they spend more money for apprenticeship training than does the United States government—this one union. So the way into apprentice training is with proper qualified apprentices and the sooner the Negro organizations and do-gooders understand it, the better for all concerned. That is the only way they can come into these trades and there is no shortcut.

Question: A related question, sir. The U.S. Negro soldier has been outstanding in Vietnam. When these Negro soldiers return to the States what plans are you making to welcome them into your craft unions if they do have equal skills?

Meany: Any of them who have equal skills will come right in. There will be no problem there at all.

Question: Sir, would you give us your views on Secretary Boyd's proposal to build U.S. merchant ships in foreign yards?

Meany: Maybe we should get our Secretary of Transportation from some foreign yard. The answer to that is obvious. U.S. merchant ships—U.S. means United States merchant ships. And if they are U.S. merchant ships, we have plenty of people in the United States ready, able and willing to build them. I'm against building them in foreign yards.

Question: Sir, what do you predict for the future of the National Farmers Union?

Meany: What do I predict for the future of the National Farmers Union? I have no prediction.

Question: The Edward P. Morgan radio program recently finished after 12 years on the air at a cost of \$1 million to your organization. What are the chances that this type radio program might be discontinued as an economy measure?

Meany: This program was not discontinued as an economy measure. We were very happy with the program and had no intention of discontinuing. However, when Ed Morgan decided to take the offer of a new venture in educational television, financed I believe by the Ford Foundation or one of the foundations, it gave us an opportunity to study the whole question of our public relations: whether using radio or television or what have you was best and we decided that we would let this period go. Now what I want to point out is that we had this question under study last February. A committee of the Council was appointed to study this question. We had no intimation at the time that Morgan was considering any other offer, was thinking of going any other place, so while we were in the process of studying it,