

Jay Lovestone Battles Communism And Mystifies the Labor Movement

AFL-CIO Figure Relates Clash With Reuthers

By KEN CLAWSON
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JAY LOVESTONE, director of the AFL-CIO's international affairs department, collects and distributes to federal agencies intelligence information gathered by his worldwide network of labor contacts.

The 68-year-old Lovestone, former secretary-general of the American Communist party who has turned with a vengeance on his former ideology, emphatically denies, however, that he acts as an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or has ever accepted CIA funds.

"I am a trade unionist and an American," he said. "When our people come up with information vital to the national security, I turn it over to the proper authorities."

He added that labor officials abroad and foreign trade unionists trained under the AFL-CIO international affairs department supervision often discover information of an intelligence nature because they are closer to the people.

"These Harvard and Yale graduates that work for our government can't get information because they have no rapport with the people. They look down on the people."

IT HAS been charged that like many converts, Mr. Lovestone approaches his work with an overzealousness that borders on fanaticism. Two of his sharpest critics are the brothers, Walter and Victor Reuther, of the United Auto Workers.

While Mr. Lovestone and his boss, AFL-CIO president, George Meany, admittedly follow an anti-Communist foreign policy line, Lovestone and his brother, director

of UAW's international affairs, accent political democratic and social reform abroad.

The two sides have often clashed over their different philosophies on international affairs. These clashes are part of the widening rift between the UAW and the national AFL-CIO, and contributed to Walter Reuther's resignation from all but one of his federation offices.

Mr. Lovestone, who delights in pointing out what he regards as inconsistencies of the Reuthers, said: "For all that the Reuthers have to say about our operational methods, don't forget that it was Victor who accepted CIA money."

*DIFFERENCES in ideology, he said, are illustrated by an underground movement in which the AFL-CIO currently is involved in Spain. Mr. Lovestone said that the anti-Franco movement con-

sists of trade unionists, Catholics, anarchists, even monarchists, but no Communists.

"Victor would have us include the Communists and the Falangists, but we know better. These latter groups would form a coalition with Franco and crush the movement."

Critics of Mr. Lovestone maintain that no area gets more attention, advice, money, and intelligence agents than Latin America. The vehicle by which Mr. Lovestone operates is the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), which has as its U.S. Government counterpart the Agency for International Development (AID).

FUNCTIONS of AIFLD are to train Latin workers in democratic unionism and to provide housing, banks, and other institutions for them.

Mr. Lovestone is particularly proud of the number of Central and South Ameri-

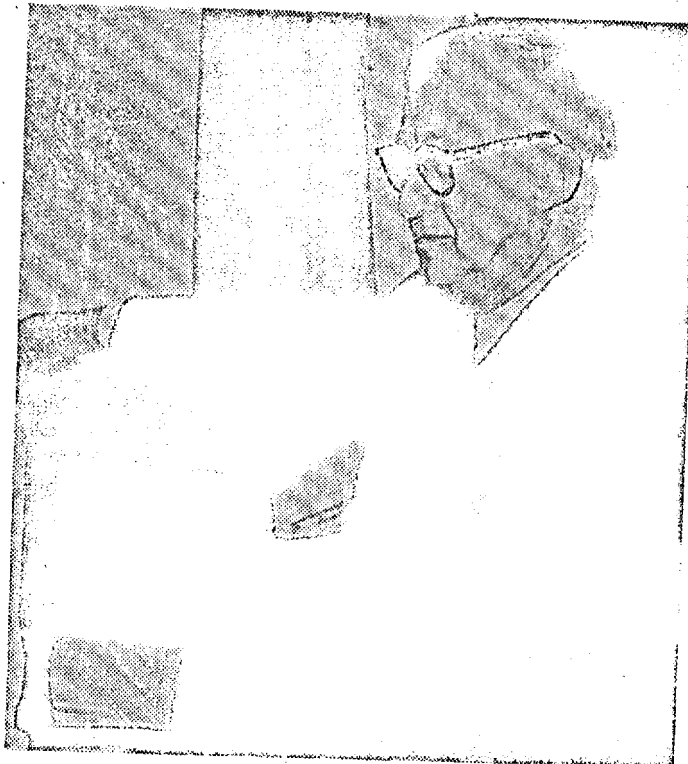
can unionists who have been schooled in an international affairs program in Front Royal, Va. He is vague on the number of graduates, variously stating figures of 7,000, 10,000 and 12,000. One of the students' prime objectives is to learn to "answer Communist arguments and deal with Red agitators."

At the recent national AFL-CIO convention in Miami Beach, Fla., it was reported that the federation has spent \$250,000 on AIFLD in the last two years. Another \$50,000 was appropriated. Many times this amount, however, comes from AID.

LENDING credence to Mr. Lovestone's continuing contact with these cadres of Latin unionists is the fact that they are paid a year's salary by AIFLD following their return home. Mr. Lovestone said the amount per individual ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and the funds are to sustain trainees until they re-enter their local labor force.

Mr. Lovestone says he has few pleasures in life aside from his work, which normally occupies about 18 hours a day. He speaks with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of information about labor activities in nearly every corner of the world, including Africa. He is powerful in foreign affairs within the Johnson Administration, as many disappointed candidates for government jobs abroad can attest.

His current worry concerns a movement by West German trade unions toward affiliation with labor organizations from the Communist bloc. Mr. Lovestone believes that it is impossible to coexist with Communists because "they have no desire to coexist; it is just that the Communists are becoming less brutal and more subtle in their effort toward world domination."



Mr. Lovestone directs international training programs