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CIA Linked to AFL-CIO Foreign Unit

By HARRY BERNSTEIN
L.A. Times-Washington Post
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LONG BEACH, Calif.

May 23.—There is evidence that the AFL-CIO international affairs department is "involved" with the Central Intelligence Agency in foreign affairs, according to a UAW official.

Victor G. Reuther, head of the UAW's international affairs department and assistant to his brother, UAW President Walter P. Reuther, said in an interview yesterday:

"The tragedy of the AFL-CIO activities in the field of foreign affairs is that they are a vest-pocket operation run by Jay Lovestone."

CHARGES SECRECY

Lovestone is director of the AFL-CIO's international affairs department. The UAW ended its annual convention here Saturday.

The extent of AFL-CIO involvement in the internal affairs of unions of other countries or in the political affairs of those countries is either publicly unknown or, at best, only partially reported, Victor Reuther said.

He said a substantial part of AFL-CIO international affairs department activities are carried on in the name of the AFL-

CIA but not of the AFL-CIO executive council.

Reuther said that "what seems to be one most recent example of CIA activities took place about two months ago in the International Food and Drink Workers Federation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and supported by the AFL-CIO."

He did not elaborate.

PANAMA SITUATION

Eight individuals in Panama alone were posing as official representatives of the federation, he said, without the knowledge of the federation's general secretary, A. Paulson.

These eight people had the credentials of a legitimate worker organization, enabling them to function as they saw fit, Reuther said. The only way Paulson was able to correct the situation was by sending a letter

to all affiliates announcing that he had to abolish the Panama office because of this, Reuther said.

Al Zack, spokesman for the AFL-CIO, denied that the American Institute for Free Labor development has any connection with the CIA or that Lovestone had anything to do with setting up the organization.

LATIN MOVEMENT

Zack said the "school" is about to graduate its 13th class of Latin American labor leaders and that its purpose is to build a strong democratic labor movement in Latin America.

Reuther said that as long as "President George Meany has such personal confidence in Lovestone, I see no changes in the federation's foreign policies."

In one of the sharpest criticisms yet made of Lovestone by a top union leader, Reuther said:

"Mr. Lovestone seems to have brought into the labor movement the working habits and undercover techniques which he learned when he was in the highest echelons of the Communist Party. I guess it's awfully hard to break those habits."

Lovestone was a onetime member of the party, but broke with it to become one of the nation's most dedicated anti-Communists.

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