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CLA Money to Reuthers

The thin lather worked up over alleged disbursal of Central Intelligence Agency funds to Walter and Victor Reuther of the United Auto Workers, and to agents of the AFL-CIO, covers no legitimate controversy. It seems no reason to point a finger of bony indignation at the CIA.

While it's true the Reuthers have strong socialistic tendencies, there is no evidence the agency monles weren't used precisely for the purpose the CIA intended—to counter Communist unionization and Red labor subversion abroad. This seems nothing else but sound intelligence work in the ideological war.

The secrecy surrounding such operations may surprise some, but no one should be so naive to believe it could have been done any other way. The furor sounds as if the recent revelations are being used to discredit CIA—which

could be exactly what pro-Communist elements wish.

Reports that United States intelligence used and profited from subsidies to various organizations should shock no one. On the contrary, knowledge of Communist undercover operations in other lands is imperative to Washington information and policy.

Only if such funds were misused would there be onus, and a close watch is maintained on CIA activities by the State Department, a committee of Congress and the White House itself.

It becomes a little tiresome to watch a steady drum-fire directed at CIA, which cannot defend itself, for doing what it is supposed to do. If it has made mistakes, and like every other government agency it has, it should not be smeared out of hand for its fund distribution to obtain essential information it is supposed to get.

CPYRGHT