

## World of Labor

By GEORGE MORRIS

### The Meany-SD tryst (2)

The one thing that stood out most in the recent AFL-CIO convention was the effort by the George Meany leadership to revive the "good old days" of the cold war. They look upon the Mideast war and tensions as a godsend. Their interest in a "Jewish homeland" and in the alleged democracy of Israel is of secondary concern, if at all.

The Social Democrats are especially active in efforts to revive old cold war patterns in the AFL-CIO's campaign to nullify the detente treaties, block trade agreements with Socialist countries, and activate their contracts within the Socialist lands to surface as "dissidents."

An example is a project Albert Shanker, head of the New York Teachers, seeks to initiate. He moved through the American Federation of Teachers' 21-member council majority a resolution introduced in the convention entitled "The Plight of Soviet Dissidents." It is a long diatribe centered on Andrei Sakharov's and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's periodic press conferences attacking the Soviet Union and giving an impression there is a mass rebellion in the USSR.

That type of stuff had, however, been covered in several other resolutions of the convention. But the resolution of the teachers calls for "AFL-CIO sponsorship of a world conference on international freedom." Because of the action required, the resolution was referred to the executive council of the AFL-CIO.

The origin of the resolution is really "The Committee for Detente with Freedom" of which Albert Shanker and Bayard Rustin, both Social Democrats, are co-chairmen. It was initiated by the SD and, as published in the April 25 New America, the SD paper, carried the signatures of such unreconstructed cold warriors as Sidney Hook, professor emeritus of NYU; John Roche, New America and AFL-CIO News columnist, and several members of the SD's executive board and some International Ladies Garment Workers Union officials. The resolution is a rewrite of that statement.

less there is what they call "democratization" of the Soviet Union.

But where does this plan really come from? We turn to an article in the May 20, 1967 issue of the old Saturday Evening Post, by Thomas W. Braden, entitled "I'm Glad The CIA Is Immoral."

That was the article in which Braden, who was a top official of the Central Intelligence Agency in its early stages, described how in 1950 he handed the AFL's Irving Brown \$15,000 for a payoff to gangsters in Mediterranean ports who attacked Communist-led longshoremen. He described how the CIA went to the AFL and how Lovestone was assigned to the job of directing CIA "labor" operations in Europe with two million dollars of CIA money annually to spend. Then he described how under Lovestone's and Meany's direction an organized movement was established to smash what they called "Communist-led" unions in France, Italy and other lands. Braden went on:

"Thus was the international organization division of the CIA born, and thus began the first centralized effort to combat Communist fronts."

Taking credit for the idea, Braden boasted of the way various cultural schemes and orchestra tours were initiated with CIA money:

"And there was Encounter, the magazine published in England, and dedicated to the proposition that cultural achievement and political freedom were interdependent. Money for both the orchestra's tour and the magazine came from the CIA, and few outside the CIA knew about it: We had placed one agent in a Europe-based organization called the Congress for Cultural Freedom. Another agent became the editor of Encounter."

Braden noted that those drawn into these CIA schemes didn't know the source of the money. So they were advised the money

comes from "American foundations."

"Why not see if the needed money could be obtained from 'American foundations,'" Braden went on. "As the agents knew, the CIA-financed foundations were quite generous when it came to the national interest."

"I remember with great pleasure the day an agent came in with the news that four national student organizations had broken away from the Communist International Union of Students and joined our student outfit instead."

It was the exposure of the way CIA money financed student groups that exploded in 1967 into an exposure of financing of unions and operations in the fields of culture through fake foundations.

Several years ago Christopher Lash wrote a long piece in the Nation magazine describing bitterly how many intellectuals were suckered into these CIA operations.

Lovestone, Shanker, et al, apparently believe they can find enough new suckers for a repeat performance.