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The Eager Victim

Now it turns out that the American Newspaper Guild has been taking money from the Central Intelligence Agency, to the measure of nearly \$1 million in the past six years. The Guild has been hungrily taking covert Government money to teach our benighted and oppressed brothers beyond the seas about the virtues of a free and independent press that is un beholden to any political paymaster. It is this element of moral imbecility that now constitutes a deep threat to the future of the American labor movement.

It is quite bad enough for the CIA to corrupt minor organizations like the National Student Association. But the CIA's invasion of the labor movement and the press is an evil on quite another scale. The CIA's eagerness to put the Guild on its payroll is only further evidence of an obvious danger. But the more profoundly disquieting side of the affair is the eagerness with which the Guild accepted the money. It has been the willing accomplice to its own seduction.

American journalism needs a strong, idealistic, fiercely independent union. But the Guild's emergence as a secret partner of secret government only indicates the decay that has overtaken it. Mr. Perlik, the Guild's secretary-treasurer, laments that the publication of this relationship will destroy the union's usefulness abroad. He might better spend his time considering its effect upon the union's usefulness in this country, among its own members.