

# Tainted Money . . . . . <sup>Back 07/2/67</sup> By John Chamberlain

## Why Don't CIA Beneficiaries Give It Back?

IF YOU HAVE TAKEN tainted money, and regard it as such, shouldn't you give it back?

Ever since the *Ramparts* magazine exposure of those officials of the National Student Association who took money over the years from the Central Intelligence Agency and lived to have it plague their consciences, I have been waiting for them to refund the dirty money.

The total, according to the best reckoning available, would come to about \$3 million.

Maybe a token restitution is all that is possible at this late date. But surely, if their ethical sense is what they say it is, the NSA leaders could easily find enough loose change in the pockets of morally stricken students to pay back that small sum of \$50,000.

According to a New York *Times* dispatch, this represents a CIA contribution for the current year.

Apparently the morality of the NSA doesn't condemn any money that has already been received, for the same *Times* story remarks that "the Association said it had been trying to end the contributions for two years and would accept no money beyond the \$50,000 in its current budget."

Then there was the little matter of the United Automobile Workers' Reuther brothers, Walter and Victor, who have been critical of

the alleged AFL-CIO involvement with the CIA. Thomas W. Braden, who worked for the CIA as assistant to Allen Dulles, says he "went to Detroit one morning and gave Walter \$50,000 in \$50 bills."

The money, says Braden, was subsequently ladled out by Victor Reuther in West Germany to bolster labor unions there. Braden says that Victor spent the money "with less than perfect wisdom, for the German unions he chose to help weren't seriously short of money and were already anti-Communist."

Walter Reuther remembers taking the money. Well, if the Reuther brothers are so ashamed of it now, why not return it to the U.S. Treasury? It wouldn't cost the United Automobile Workers very much. If the UAW should object to an assessment to cover a refund, the Reuthers could take up a collection—or, if their past behavior really burns them, they might even take it out of their own salaries.

I don't know what to say about the money from the CIA that went to finance the Congress for Cultural Freedom, which, in turn, passed some funds along to the London-based magazine *Encounter*. The editors and associates of *Encounter* seem only to have heard "rumors" that the CIA was helping them out.

Moreover, some of the *Encounter* editors and writers deny having profited by their contributions to the magazine. Still, if Stephen Spender and Irving Kristol heard about "rumors" of CIA support when they were on the *Encounter* masthead, shouldn't they have done

something to run the rumors down at the time?

And now that it seems clear from Braden's report that the CIA was involved in financing *Encounter*, shouldn't the former editors of that magazine try to clear the good name of their journalistic alma mater by starting a conscience fund to pay the money back?

FINALLY, there is something the National Student Association could do right now to clear what remains of its good name with those who think it was terrible to help their country out when it was engaged in mortal conflict with the Communists at the height of the Cold War.

The NSA, according to David Franke, editor of the *Young Americans for Freedom* magazine *New Guard*, has been using some Washington property rent-free. The CIA has, says Franke, been paying the rent through one of those "conduit" foundations. Even the chairs which the NSA officers sit on were CIA financed.

How can they bear to rest their affronted posteriors on those chairs? If they are really as all-fired moral and ethical as they say they are, I look to see them substitute packing cases for their tainted office furniture.

There is an old saying that you should put your money where your mouth is. But our ethical young seem to be all mouth. If and when they give a nickel back to the Federal Treasury, that'll be the day. I'd be glad to accept some of the money personally for transmission to Washington.

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