

Secretary Lovestone

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The Secretary of State for International Labor Affairs (Acting), Mr. Jay Lovestone of the AFL-CIO, believes free men should have no truck at all with Communists. On that basis the American union delegation to the International Labor Organization conference in Geneva has walked out to protest a Pole's election as chairman. Mr. Lovestone apparently had been confident that a reliable man from the Netherlands would be elected but his head-counting, after months of campaigning, turned out wrong. There was nothing personal against the Pole, you understand, and no complaint about election improprieties. It's just that the election came out unexpectedly, so the autonomous labor delegation decided not to accept its results.

The U.S. looks silly. But perhaps the tawdriest part of the performance is that the Administration should allow a crucial aspect of its foreign policy—in the international labor movement—to be made by Mr. Lovestone. How can the President talk about "bridge building" and improving relations with Eastern Europe, and at the same time mortgage part of his policy to Mr. Lovestone?