

Ex-Agent Says Victor Made Request

Reuther Concedes UAW Got CIA Funds



Associated Press
THOMAS W. BRADEN
... discloses CIA move

By Frank C. Porter *5/8/67*
Washington Post Staff Writer

Walter P. Reuther conceded yesterday that the United Auto Workers accepted CIA funds in "an emergency situation" during the rebuilding of the European labor movement 15 years ago.

But the union since then has resisted such covert financing to maintain its "independence and integrity," the UAW President said.

And Reuther also revealed his brother, Victor, "emphatically rejected" a request that he become a CIA agent under cover of his job as European representative of the CIO.

Walter Reuther's statement, issued in Detroit, followed revelation by Thomas W.

Braden that he created the CIA program of subsidizing labor unions and student groups in 1950. Public disclosure of the program earlier this year set off a storm of controversy.

Braden, former aide to the then CIA Director Allen Dulles, said that without the program France and Italy might well have gone Communist.

At his request, Braden said, the American Federation of Labor, "undertook the job of bribing some of the Communist workers" who were sabotaging Marshall Plan cargoes in Europe.

He also said that Jay Lovestone



WALTER REUTHER
... "an emergency situation"

stone and Irving Brown of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union organized a non-Communist union in France in 1947 when a Communist-led strike in Paris brought fears of a government takeover.

Union Appeal to CIA

"When they ran out of money, they appealed to the CIA," said Braden. "Thus began the secret subsidy of free trade unions which soon spread to Italy. Without that subsidy, postwar history might have gone very differently."

Lovestone has adamantly denied charges by Victor Reuther and others that he has been involved in the CIA apparatus in his present job as director of the international affairs department of the AFL-CIO. He has, however, said he forwarded information to interested Federal departments or agencies, "as would any patriotic American."

Similarly, AFL-CIO President George Meany has denied any knowledge of the Federation or its affiliates receiving funds from the CIA, although at least two affiliates — the American Newspaper Guild and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees—have ad-

mitted doing so in the past.

Reuther Criticized

The period covered by the Braden revelations, 1950 to 1954, preceded the AFL-CIO merger. During part of this period the late William Green headed the old AFL; Meany was president during the remainder.

Braden, former West Coast newspaper publisher and one-time president of the California Board of Education who

unsuccessfully ran for lieutenant governor last year, was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times. He also tells his story in the forthcoming issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Braden said Victor Reuther "should be ashamed of himself" for criticizing CIA in-

volvement in the labor movement.

At Victor Reuther's request, "I personally went to Detroit and gave Walter Reuther \$50,000 in \$50 bills to influence labor unions in West Germany," Braden said.

Braden said Walter gave the money to Victor Reuther who

spent it with "something less than perfect wisdom." The money went to German unions who were already anti-Communist and not seriously short of money, Braden said.

Walter Reuther said Braden's reference to the Auto Workers were "incomplete and misleading."