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Created Subsidy Program Of CIA, Publisher Says

NEW YORK (AP)—Thomas W. Braden, a newspaper publisher and former Central Intelligence Agency official, says he created the CIA program of subsidizing student, labor and cultural groups abroad—including \$50,000 of CIA money spent by the United Auto Workers Union to combat communism.

Braden told the Los Angeles Times yesterday, in connection with an article he has written for the May 20 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, that he personally gave the money to UAW President Walter Reuther

to influence West German labor unions.

REUTHER REPLIED that on one occasion the UAW had "agreed reluctantly" to use the funds for European trade unions "to intensify their educational and organizational programs."

Subsequently, Reuther said, the UAW agreed never to "transmit government funds regardless of the urgency."

Braden, former president of the California Board of Education and a California state college trustee, is editor and pub-

lisher of the Oceanside, Calif., Blade-Tribune.

In Washington, a spokesman said the CIA would not comment on Braden's article.

"We had no part in it, nor any prior knowledge of the author's intent to write it. We deeply regret that he did write it," the spokesman added.

BRADEN, WHO HEADED the CIA's division of international organizations from 1951 to 1954, said the program was successful in infiltrating every field where international Communist

fronts operated.

He wrote that the "vast and secret" operation was killed by "small-minded and resentful men."

"In my opinion, then and now, it was essential," he wrote. "Was it 'immoral,' 'wrong,' 'disgraceful'? Only in the sense that war itself is immoral, wrong and disgraceful. For the cold war was and is a war fought with ideas instead of bombs."

"The money we spent was very little by Soviet standards," Braden said.