

NY Times Series

Reuther Says Hoover Defied Order for Shooting Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (UPI) — J. Edgar Hoover refused to investigate the shootings of two labor leaders in the nineteen-forties although ordered to do so by Attorney General Tom Clark, one of the victims said yesterday.

Victor Reuther, retired United Auto Workers leader, told a group of union members that he found out about the defiance of instructions by the former Federal Bureau of Investigation director after obtaining Justice Department documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Reuther was blinded by a shot in the face and a similar attempt was made on the life of

his brother, in 1948. Both survived but Walter Reuther died in a plane crash in 1970.

Victor Reuther said that Mr. Clark ordered Mr. Hoover to look into the shootings and noted why the F.B.I. had jurisdiction, but Mr. Hoover sent a letter saying that the Attorney General had told him the F.B.I. had no jurisdiction.