

ley and Hicksville. Moreover, this is not the first such program in New York City; 192 trainees have already been graduated from an identical licensed practical nurse course.

ALFRED L. GREEN,
Executive Director, Division of Employment, New York State Department of Labor.
Albany, Sept. 4, 1964.

Dominican Republic Project

Norman Thomas Comments on Conjectured C.I.A. Link

TO THE EDITOR:

According to a story by Foster Hailey in your Sept. 3 issue, it was conjectured in Washington that the C.I.A. might have channeled money through the Kaplan Fund for work done in the Dominican Republic by the Institute of International Labor Research, of which I am chairman.

If so, it was without the knowledge or suspicion of any of our board. Indeed, I found the conjecture surprising because a committee of Dominicans, loyal to the democratically elected Bosch Administration, assured me after the coup which overturned the government that although they thought our Ambassador, John Bartlow Martin, had acted well, they suspected the C.I.A. and military of having plotted with the Dominican military and reactionaries from the beginning.

Institute's Task

Our relations with the Kaplan Fund seemed to me ideal. The fund, having approved our plans for work in the Dominican Republic, never interfered in any way. We on our part kept it informed of our expenditures and the progress of our work.

Our institute existed to train workers for the tasks of a democratic community: teachers, leaders in co-operatives, and in economic planning, and the general war against illiteracy. It was a necessary task in the country, so long treated by the brutal dictator Trujillo as his private property.

Our very able director, Sacha Volman, a man with creative ideas in whom I have the highest confidence, had worked out an alliance of United States forces concerned in helping the republic become educationally a show place for democracy. This alliance, called CIDES, incorporated under Dominican law and with Dominican members, enjoyed good relations with President Bosch but was neither controlled by him nor sought to control him. Its plans and initial progress have been the subject of examination and approval as a pioneering effort in underdeveloped countries by a seminar set up by the Brookings Institution.

Bosch Falsely Labeled

President Bosch it will be remembered was overthrown by the military largely on false charges that he was pro-Communist. Mr. Volman was high on the proscribed list and had temporarily to go into hiding. Out of personal experience he is a convinced democrat and thus opposed to Communism, but neither he nor CIDES was anybody's tool in fighting the rather feeble forces of Dominican Communism. Some Communists, by the way, for their own reasons joined the conspiracy against President Bosch.

Your readers may be interested to know that the present government after some delay invited us to resume our work under their dictatorship. We refused because what we were trying to do requires a kind of freedom Santo Domingo does not enjoy.

The violent end of what CIDES was beginning to do in the republic, a kind of work which we hoped might be a model for other nations, was one of the greatest disappointments of my life. But in the whole episode I have never ceased to believe that the Kaplan Fund was enabling us to do a work which deserved the gratitude of all lovers of intelligent, progressive democracy.

NORMAN THOMAS.

New York, Sept. 4, 1964.