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Faulty Part Blamed For Reuther Crash

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Labor leader Walter Reuther died when the pilot of his plane was lured below a safe altitude by faulty altimeter in which parts were missing and one part was installed upside down, safety investigators said today.

Reuther, 62, head of the United Auto Workers Union; his wife, her nephew, and a friend of Reuther's died along with the pilot and copilot when their small chartered jet crashed May 9 while attempting a night landing at

Pellston, Mich.

In its report, the National Transportation Safety Board said the twin-engine Lear jet clipped trees on a hilltop two miles from the runway, but the pilot was able to keep the plane airborne for one-half mile before it hit another clump of trees and crashed.

Investigators found the pilot's altimeter and an examination showed "some incorrect parts had been installed, some parts were missing and one part was installed upside down."