

CIA and the Labor Unions

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The New York Post yesterday quoted United Auto Workers official Victor Reuther as saying that the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement with the AFL-CIO is "a lot bigger story" than the disclosure of CIA support of student groups.

In a column written by James A. Wechsler, the Post's editorial page chief, Reuther was quoted as saying in a telephone interview:

"I did my best to try to lift the lid on it. And some day it will all come out."

POST

Reuther, director of international relations for UAW, is a brother of Walter Reuther, Auto Workers president who recently resigned from the AFL-CIO's National Executive Council.

Wechsler wrote that Victor Reuther was reluctant to amplify his statements about relations between the CIA and the AFL-CIO because of his union's strained relations with the parent labor organization.

But he quoted Reuther as saying that he would "stand by everything I've said before," a reference to his charges last year that the AFL-CIO's director of international affairs, Jay Lovestone, had secret ties to the CIA.

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Wechsler said an investigation would show that "Various international and Latin-American operations of the AFL-CIO have been heavily subsidized through CIA conduits."

"It would also disclose," Wechsler wrote, "at least one sensational case of quiet CIA intervention in an election in an AFL-CIO union. When the 'CIA man' won, the union's staff and budget rose and its international activity suddenly increased in Latin America and the Middle East."

Wechsler also said that institutes conducted by Lovestone trained unionists from Brazil in this country to take part in the military group which overthrew Brazil President Joao Goulart.

Associated Press