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Espionage Under Trade Union Cover

Scanning the World Press

THIS is probably no longer a secret. At any rate, American newspapers and magazines have long been writing of the links between the AFL-CIO leaders and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. One of these leaders, Jay Lovestone, the Chicago Tribune wrote back in 1954, had "readily agreed that his AFL Free Trade Union Committee is engaged in intelligence work." Edwin Lahey, Washington correspondent for the Knight newspapers, writes that "it can be stated without qualification that the CIA ... has in recent years obtained much of its primary information about international communism from Lovestone."

On July 5 this year the Nation magazine carried an article entitled "Lovestone Diplomacy" which sheds an ominous light on the activities of some of the American labour leaders.

Here is what this weekly writes:

"What the U.S. government does not do directly, because it would be flagrant meddling with the internal affairs of other nations, and what the CIA cannot do because it is suspect, the AFL-CIO does on their behalf. In ostensibly innocent relationships between unions of one country with another, the AFL-CIO throws its weight toward the making and unmaking of governments, with the purpose of instilling abroad the phobic anti-communism that has become entrenched at home."

This is followed with facts. Dozens of facts. The AFL leaders helped split the French labour movement after the war. They encouraged the West-German unions to take part in the cold war. Lovestone was one of the founders of the Committee of One Million, formed in the United States to keep the People's Republic of China out of the U.N. Along with Admiral Burke and Edward Teller,

"father" of the H-bomb, he heads the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, that is, helps the Cuban counter-revolutionaries in their subversive activities.

The reactionary coup in Brazil, the establishment of the military junta in the Dominican Republic, provocations against Dr. Cheddi Jagan's progressive government in British Guiana—AFL-CIO agents have had a hand in all these anti-democratic plots in the Western Hemisphere.

"American labour leaders," Nation writes, "certainly have a right to express a preference between foreign unions controlled by Communists or neutralists and those with pro-American sentiments. And it is certainly legitimate for them to offer gifts of cars or mimeograph machines to help the work of those they favour. But there is a line beyond which such aid becomes intervention."

Elsewhere in this article, the weekly says that if "the other side" were doing it, this would be called "outside subversion." "What is intolerable," it writes, "is not that Lovestone and company are anti-communist.... What is intolerable is the combative, deliberate attempt to set off one type of foreign unionist against another in order to enhance the United States position in the cold war. What is intolerable is the deliberate attempt to mould a foreign union in a barren 'anti-communist' image."

How is this done? Can one attribute to the labour unions the methods employed by "Lovestone and company"? No, they are largely peculiar to "Lovestone and company,"

the group of anti-communists, whose ideological leader is George Meany, and who include Irving Brown, Harry Goldberg, Andrew McClellan, Ernest Lee, Serafino Romualdi and William C. Doherty, Jr.

The American labour bosses make special trips to the countries where they conduct subversive and counter-revolutionary work. Several AFL-CIO leaders, for instance, visited British Guiana at the time of the onslaught on Jagan's government. What is more, there is an AFL-CIO agent permanently assigned to the U.S. Embassy there.

"The links between the State Department and Meany's international missionaries are indisputable," Nation writes. "The AFL-CIO has its own liaison man in the Department; he is George P. (Phil) Delaney, who serves as Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for International Labour Affairs. It is almost impossible for any labour attaché to be appointed to a diplomatic post if Meany and Lovestone advise Delaney, that he does not please them." The weekly adds that during the preparations of the coup which overthrew Juan Bosch's constitutional government in the Dominican Republic, "Labour Attaché" Fred A. Somerford assisted the military junta in every possible way.

However rich the American labour federations may be, they have not enough money to finance all their activities in other countries. Lovestone and his group, for instance, were in back of the eleven and a half weeks' political "strike" against the progressive forces in British Guiana. The operation cost all of \$1,200,000. As Drew Pearson writes, it was "inspired by a combination of CIA money and British intelligence." But the guiding force was the AFL-CIO!

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