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## Press Reports Link NEA to CIA Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C.

To most teachers who belong to the National Education Association, the financial operations of the million-member educational monolith are little more than a blur. They pay their dues and, in return, get a journal, a newspaper, and some questionable prestige.

Occasionally, a member will wonder how the NEA bureaucracy spends his dues money and, perhaps, what are the other sources of association income. If he's persistent, he can go to an NEA convention and pick up a skimpy financial report. But it will tell him very little about either NEA's expenditures—or its sources of income.

Just how little was shockingly illustrated last month when newspaper investigators discovered, and the NEA belatedly admitted, receiving funds from a foundation linked with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Under the innocuous heading, "International Relations — projects, grants, and contracts" in NEA's current financial statement is listed \$356,875 in receipts. A note informs the reader that project funds are financed by moneys "set aside by the Association, by grants received from other organizations, or in some cases, by the sale of material . . . and by tuitions." Just what the "other organizations" are remains unspecified—in the NEA financial report, at least.

In a story headlined, "NEA Aide Bared as Helping Set Up CIA Outlet Fund," the Washington Evening Star reported on Feb. 22 that William G. Carr, retiring NEA executive secretary, had "helped set up a mysterious Washington-based fund that has received substantial money from Central Intelligence Agency sources." The fund was identified as the Vernon Fund, established in Washington in 1958.

Both the NEA and its international affiliate, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP), received money from the Vernon Fund, admitted Carr, who also serves as secretary general of WCOTP. The WCOTP received \$500,000 a year out of a total budget of \$550,000 for each of the past two years from the Vernon Fund

while, according to Gerald Grant in the Washington Post (Feb. 22), the NEA was reported to have received more than \$60,000 from the Vernon Fund to "bolster its Committee on International Relations."

Carr declined to say how much the NEA had received through the Vernon Fund.

The Post article reported that an attorney in Washington, Bryce Rea Jr., had incorporated the

Vernon Fund in 1958 with Carr and Edith G. Williamson, a secretary in Rea's office, who has since died. "He declined, however, to say who else is connected with the fund, where it gets its money, or what it does with it," reported the Post. The fund was given tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service only two weeks after its incorporation; normally a wait of a year is required. Tax records of the Benjamin Rosenthal Foundation of New York indicate that \$30,000 was received from the Price Fund—identified last month as a source of CIA money—in 1961, and half of it was passed on to the Vernon Fund, reported the Post. Again in 1962, the Rosenthal Foundation got \$25,000 from the Edsel Fund, a source of CIA money, and passed all of it onto the Vernon Fund.

Apparently, the bulk of CIA funds channeled to NEA and WCOTP went for overseas work aimed at bringing teacher-administrator organizations into WCOTP programs. The WCOTP is only one of a number of international teacher groups, others including an international group connected with the largely Communist World Federation of Trade Unions, and the International Federation of Free Teacher Unions (IFFTU), with which the American Federation of Teachers is affiliated. According to the NEA Handbook, WCOTP "plays a role at the international level similar to that of the national teachers' associations within a country." It has held conferences in several countries, including worldwide conclaves in South Korea and Ethiopia. WCOTP paid expenses for many delegates.

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