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## Statement by Reuther on Link to C.I.A.

DETROIT, May 7—Following is the text of a statement by Walter P. Reuther, President of the United Automobile Workers, in answer to assertions by Thomas W. Braden that the Union received \$50,000 in Central Intelligence Agency funds:

Mr. Braden's reference to the U.A.W. is incomplete and misleading.

Following the end of the war, the American labor movement made a great effort to assist in the rebuilding of the free labor movement in Europe, which had been destroyed as the first victims of Hitler's tyranny and brutality.

The labor movement of Europe in the postwar period was weak and without resources and was therefore especially vulnerable to Communist subversion.

In this emergency situation, 15 years ago the U.A.W. did agree reluctantly on one occasion to the request to transmit Government funds to supplement the inadequate funds being made available by the United States labor movement. These monies were merely added to the trade union funds to intensify the education and organizational programs then under way in Europe. The content of the program was in no way affected or altered.

Following this incident Mr. Victor Reuther, who was then serving as European representative of the national C.I.O., was contacted by Mr. Braden at the United States Embassy in Paris and asked to become an agent for the C.I.A. using as a "front" his position as European representative of the C.I.O.

Victor Reuther emphatically rejected Mr. Braden's request. This matter was considered of such importance that it was reviewed with

Philip Murray, then president of the national C.I.O., and for whom Victor Reuther was working. Mr. Murray agreed with Victor Reuther's decision.

He also agreed both with what we had done previously in the emergency situation and with our decision not again to transmit Government funds, regardless of the need or urgency. He shared U.A.W.'s deep concern with the challenge in Europe and our determination to do everything possible to resist Communist subversion but on a basis that would not compromise the basic integrity and independence of the American labor movement.

The U.A.W. has in the past and shall continue in the fu-

ture to follow a policy of fiercely defending its independence and integrity. To strengthen this determination, the U.A.W., by convention action, created a Free World Labor Defense Fund and the U.A.W. has relied exclusively on this fund for financing of its international activities.

The C.I.A. has a difficult and crucial role to play in helping defend the security of our nation. In our judgment, it can best serve this country and its free institutions, both private and public, by conducting its affairs in a manner that does not compromise the integrity nor put in jeopardy the independence of groups such as the labor movement and student organizations.