

There's more and more talk, these days, that civil rights organizations need to snuggle up close to Lyndon's Labor organizations. This is known as the "coalition theory." The theory is that, if Negroes are to get what they want, being a minority of only 10% of the population, they're going to have to have allies.

When you look around for possible allies, you look for other elements of the population who have some of the same grievances that Negroes do. Right away, of course, you see that large numbers of whites don't get paid enough to live on (or can't find jobs at all), don't have decent places to live, can't feed their families, can't send their kids to college, etc.

In short, many whites need the same things that most Negroes need. Thus, theoretically, they ought to be the political allies of Negroes, so the two could work together, politically, to get what both want and need. The theory sounds pretty good, and we think that some such coalition is the only hope for either whites or Negroes.

But, from here, the "coalition theorists" go on to look around for something more. They want to find organizations with which civil rights groups can ally. Now, the fact is that the poor whites who are the natural allies of Negroes don't have any organizations. So the coalitionists, instead of working to build the organizations among poor whites, focus on the labor organizations which already exist, and which have plenty of money. Of course, the labor organizations don't even pretend to represent anybody except their members who have jobs and can pay dues, and that representation is often more pretense than reality. But this crucial fact often gets lost in all the rhetoric of coalition.

The biggest and most powerful (with the most money, that is) labor organization is the AFL-CIO. Therefore, the coalitionists want to make an alliance with the AFL-CIO. As a matter of fact the alliance is already pretty far along.

Not long ago Bayard Rustin and some others set up what's called the A. Phillip Randolph Institute in New York. Reports are that the following persons serve on the executive committee of the Institute: M.L. King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, James Farmer, Whitney Young and John Lewis. It's also reported that there'll be an "advisory group" composed of representatives of labor organizations and churches.

The purpose of the Institute is to mobilize the political strength of civil rights groups behind the AFL-CIO's fight to get Congress to repeal the part of the federal labor law which

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permits states to have laws that hinder union organization. Another of the purposes of the Institute is to serve as an "ideological clearinghouse" for civil rights groups and to "train" civil rights workers and those who want to organize poor whites.

According to Rustin, the Institute now has \$80,000. It got \$50,000 from the AFL-CIO, and another \$30,000 from what Rustin describes as "personal friends." It may be that the Institute is just what the civil rights movement needs--an adequately financed training institution in which civil rights workers and poor white organizers can learn what they need to know to be effective politically. On the other hand, some of the background facts--such as the heavy dependence on AFL-CIO funds--need to be examined rather closely. We say this because of what we know about some of the other organizations which have been created and financed by AFL-CIO.

In 1962 an organization called the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) was set up. It grew out of a training school which was conducted in 1960 by an AFL-CIO affiliate (Communication Workers of America) and which was financed with money provided by the U.S. State Department. The training school was for Latin American labor unionists.

The State Department provided enough money not only to put the Latin Americans through the training course, but also to pay their salaries for nine months after they returned home. George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO worked with the State Department and the Communications Workers of America in setting up AIFLD. There was some trouble finding a person to head the new organization, because some of its money was to come from an outfit called the Michigan Fund. The Michigan Fund had already been identified as one of the channels the Central Intelligence Agency uses to put funds into the hands of those who will do its bidding in other countries. Finally an old gentleman named Seraffina Romualdi was placed at its head. AIFLD was endowed with a "special projects" department and at its helm was placed William C. Doherty, Jr., son of a former AFL-CIO vice-president.

AIFLD "trains" Latin American unionists. It has 14 offices in Latin American countries. These offices have trained more than 20,000 union members in what AIFLD calls "trade union procedures". Some 300 of the more successful trainees have been brought to the AIFLD headquarters in Washington, D.C. for nine months' further training. This "elite" of Latin American union members get paid travel and living expenses while they're at the special training in Washington, D.C., and they are kept on the AIFLD payroll for nine months after they return to their countries.

One of the "special projects" of the AIFLD department headed by William C. Doherty seems to have been helping to organize and maintain the general strike in British Guiana in 1963. The general strike was designed to overthrow the

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socialist government of Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan. Some of the Guianese unionists whose nine months of pay from AIFLD was about to expire at the time of the general strike, were kept on for an additional five months, so they could participate more effectively in the CIA's project of overthrowing the British Guianese Government.

In general the purpose of AIFLD is to keep "communists" out of labor unions in Latin America, and, of course, to keep "communists" out of Latin American governments (and, we might add, to keep them inside Latin American jails). What is a "communist, as AIFLD see things ? One person who worked with an AIFLD project in Bolivia said: "By the definition of AIFLD anyone who wanted a raise was a communist. Its whole purpose was to make the 120 or so men it trained into government supporters."

The board of trustees of AIFLD includes some persons who could hardly be supposed to be militant representatives of the interests of Latin American workers. The trustees include:

J. Peter Grace
(Chairman)

President of W.R. Grace & Co. (which has sugar growing and refining, paper manufacturing, food processing and paint making operations in Peru, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Central America and Panama); director of First National City Bank of New York (with vast banking operations throughout Latin America); director of Kennecott Copper Co. (with large copper mining operations in Chile); director of Brazilian Traction Light and Power Co. (which produces and distributes about 50% of the electric power in Brazil and provides and operates about 80% of Brazilian telephones.)

Berent Friele

Vice president and director of International Basic Economy Corp., a Rockefeller Latin American operation.

Charles Brinkerhoff

Vice-chairman and director, Anaconda Co. (which owns the copper that Kennecott doesn't own in Chile); director of First National City Bank of New York; director of ACF Industries, Inc. (one of the larger armaments makers in the U.S.)

Juan T. Trippe

Chairman of Pan American World Airways (which operates the missile site at Cape Kennedy under contract with the U.S. Government and which owns, with W.R. Grace & Co., large shipping interests in Latin America); director of Chrysler Corp.

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| Henry S. Woodbridge | Chairman of True Temper Corp. (manufactures various kinds of tools and railroad equipment); director of International Power Co. (produces and distributes electric power in Bolivia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela.) |
| William Hickey | Chairman, executive committee, True Temper Corp.; Pres. of United Corp. (an investment fund with large utilities holdings); director of International Power Co.; director of Bolivia Power Co. |
| Robert Charles Hill | U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, 1957-1961; director, United Fruit Co. (which owns most of the banana and other fruit production in Central and South America; it was largely in United Fruit's interest that the CIA overthrew the Government of Guatemala in 1954, in order to restore the banana lands which the Arbenz government had taken from United Fruit); director of International Power; director of Merck & Co., whose former president, John T. Connor, is Lyndon's Secretary of Commerce; director of True Temper Corp. |

Thus, the policy-making board of trustees of AIFLD includes some of the most powerful industrialists and financiers in the U.S., who are also large employers of Latin American workers.

The budget of AIFLD, according to its head man, Roumaldi, is about \$2 million per year. Of this, the AFL-CIO contributes 11%, business organizations (presumably the corporations represented on the AIFLD board) contribute 8.5% and the Agency for International Development (Lyndon's foreign aid agency which, as we've shown many times in these pages, is actually an arm of American big business) contributes the rest.

What all this means, simply, is that the AFL-CIO makes a token contribution to the budget of AIFLD and that the rest of the money is supplied by big business and big business's boy, Lyndon. Unless AIFLD lives in a world different from the one we know, then big business and Lyndon are setting the policies for AIFLD, which, in turn means, that the AIFLD trainees are indoctrinated with what Lyndon and big business think they ought to know and believe, and then these "trainees" are sent back to Latin America and paid to serve as labor finks for big business and political finks for Lyndon.

With this kind of record on the AFL-CIO and its "coalitions", we think it would be advisable for any civil rights organization to consider everything very carefully before recruiting workers to be put through a training course financed and created by the AFL-CIO. Maybe the money was given to the A. Phillip Randolph Institute by the AFL-CIO, but who gave it

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to the union ? And what did the AFL-CIO agree to do in return for the money ? If AFL-CIO's record in AIFLD means anything at all, then it establishes that the greatest of our labor organizations is wholly capable of cooperating with the U.S. Government and with American corporations to sell out the workers it claims to represent.

Who won't it sell out, if the price is right ?

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It's not only through big labor and big business that Lyndon shows his concern for the poor of Latin America. Just the other day he told David Bell, who runs the Agency for International Development for him, to pay the expenses, so Lyndon's brother-in-law, Antonio J. Taylor, could make a tour of Latin America.

Ladybird's brother runs an arts and crafts store in San Antonio, Texas, and Lyndon thought it would be nice if Antonio would run around Latin America looking for things he could sell in his store. Of course, while he's down there, he can also tell the natives what they could make for him to sell in the store, and, maybe, place some orders with them.

Lyndon's a good family man, if nothing else. He arranged that Antonio's expenses would be paid for this little business trip (AID announced that he was going down there to explore the possibility of developing sources of artwork so the Latin American countries would be able to earn more dollars) and, also, that he'd get \$75 per day as a consultant to the Agency for International Development. Antonio will be going to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Guatemala.

We do hope he has a nice time, and makes lots of money. Lyndon will be so proud.

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Lyndon's murderous war in Vietnam goes on and on. That means Lyndon's lies about Vietnam have to get bigger and bigger. When he lies to the American people, that's one thing. They elected him, or some of them did, so, in a way, they asked for it. Lyndon was a well-known liar long before he ever became president.

But one of the things Lyndon's very proud of is that he's increased the number of Vietnamese children in school from 500,000 to 1,500,000. Another of his kindnesses involves having the United States Information Agency produce the textbooks for the schools. The USIA printing plant in Manila turns out 75,000 of these U.S. approved textbooks for the Vietnamese children Lyndon is putting into the schools.

It's hard to believe that Lyndon wouldn't put at least some of the lies he tells about the war into the textbooks for the Vietnamese children to "learn" from. All those kids will, we're sure, be thoroughly indoctrinated with the Lyndon-McNamara-Bundy theory that the civil war in Vietnam is not a civil war at all, but a case of those evil, wild-eyed communists from the north, jealous of the orderly and stable progress made under the 60-odd governments in recent years in South Vietnam, trying to cause trouble for the contented and happy South Vietnamese people.

In the field of crimes against humanity, which is worse-- burning and bombing and shooting and gassing the people of South Vietnam; or warping the minds of their children?

Lyndon, we suppose, is not concerned about it. He's too preoccupied, as he said to some friends the other day, wondering why the North Vietnamese don't want him to educate their children. "I'd be glad to do this for North Vietnam, too," he said. "But they won't sit down and talk to me. I'm ready to talk to them at any time, anywhere, about peace and future improvement of their country, but they simply will not talk."

Then he sent another wave of bombers over North Vietnam.

Will that be in the books?

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July 8, 1965

Jack Minnis

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