

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

7th November, 1934.

SECRETNO. 731WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

All unions in Canada affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have been asked to rid the membership of Communists. This appeal has not been very well received in some parts of the Dominion.

The Communists who were released from Kingston Penitentiary recently are continuing to speak in different parts of the country. Bruce and Popovich were in Calgary attending the Convention of the Mine Workers Union of Canada. Ewen is on a speaking tour in Nova Scotia. Boychuk spoke in Ontario recently. Carr, now Business Manager of the leading English Communist paper, The Worker, is expected in Winnipeg shortly. Hill, newly appointed Editor of the Finnish paper Vapaus, has delivered a number of addresses in Northern Ontario.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. The A.F. of L. And The Communists

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, recently circularized all affiliated unions and central bodies urging [✂ #]them to "purge from their ranks those who are known to be Communists". The letter says in part:-

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting gave special consideration to reported activities of Communist groups in different sections of our country. These reports indicate that the Communists are complying with instructions from the Russian Third International to 'bore from within' the organizations of labour The philosophy of Communism is in direct conflict with the philosophy of trade unionism and of the American Federation of Labor The American Federation of Labor seeks to increase wages, improve conditions of employment, and raise the standard of life and living in the United States to a higher level Communism is not so much concerned with economic improvement. It is organized for the purpose of permitting a political revolution. It sees in every strike an opportunity to overthrow the existing order to permit revolution to destroy Capitalism and establish Sovietism".

This letter has been received and discussed by a large number of American Federation of Labor organizations and labour councils in Canada. In many instances the letter was ordered "filed" without any action being taken whatever. This is particularly true of the American Federation

of Labor unions in Western Canada. In Vancouver the Trades and Labour Council expelled a prominent "Left" winger named Pritchett for his Communist sympathy or activities. The Vancouver Street Railwaymen's Union, one of the most influential American Federation of Labor unions in the City of Vancouver, however, repudiated the letter. In Edmonton the Trades and Labour Council ordered the letter "filed". Similar action has also been taken by most of the local unions there. In Winnipeg the same thing has been done. The Communist press and the Communists generally are quite elated over the failure of the President of the American Federation of Labor to put into effect his expulsion policy in the Canadian unions.

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2. T. C. Sims In Vancouver

T. C. Sims of Toronto, Ont., was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Workers Unity League in the Orange Hall, Vancouver, B.C., on Sunday, 28th October.

[☞ #] Percy Bengough, Secretary of the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council, [☞ #] had been invited to debate with T. C. Sims on the subject "The True Program To Build And Unite The Trade Union Movement". Percy Bengough, however, failed to put in an appearance.

T. C. Sims, in opening, made a vicious attack on the American Federation of Labor and the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. Dealing with the strikes which had been organized under the leadership of the Workers Unity League he quoted instances where the strikes had been won referring particularly to the Stratford strike and the lumber workers' strike on Vancouver Island of last spring. He admitted that the Workers Unity League had lost out in the Flin Flon strike but intimated that another attempt would be made in due course. He made the usual disclaimer that the Workers Unity League is not a department of the Communist Party of Canada. He, however, admitted that he was a Communist. In concluding, Sims told his audience that another war was due to start in the near future and the Capitalist countries would force the issue and attack the U.S.S.R.

The attendance at this meeting was well over 700 and A. Johnson, of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, acted as Chairman.

[☞ #]

3. Plans For The November Anniversary

In preparation for the 17th November anniversary of the Russian-November Revolution meetings are being arranged throughout Canada at

which the progress and success of socialist construction in the Soviet Union will be aired.

[5]

In Vancouver, B.C., Malcolm Bruce is scheduled to speak; in Winnipeg, Man., Sam Carr, now Business Manager of The Worker, will be the principal speaker; Tom Ewen, who is now on a speaking tour in Nova Scotia, will speak in Glace Bay; Leslie Morris, present Editor of The Worker, is scheduled for Hamilton, Ont.; M. Erlich will speak in Montreal, Que.; and Stewart Smith will speak at a rally in the Massey Hall at Toronto, Ont.

4. [~~3~~ deletion: 1 line]

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[~~3~~ #]

5. John Boychuk

John Boychuk spoke at a meeting in the Workers' Centre in London, Ont., on 21st October. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League and the attendance numbered several hundred. Boychuk was enthusiastically received. He extended greetings from Tim Buck and also from the other leaders who have recently been released from Kingston.

Following his address resolutions were passed demanding the release of Tim Buck, Ernst Thaelman, and one

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protesting the deportation of Pat O'Daire of Saskatoon, Sask.

The meeting also sent a telegram to the Minister of Immigration at Ottawa protesting the intended deportation of P. Zepkar to Jugo Slavia.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA6. The F.S.U. In Vancouver

[✂ #] The Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver, B.C., held a public meeting in the Eagle Hall on 28th October. Approximately 300 persons were present and the main speaker was David Case, who chose as his subject "The Peace Policy Of The Soviet Union". In opening he stated that he had come to Vancouver from the Anti-War Congress held in Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., recently at which, he claimed, over 3,000 delegates from all parts of the U.S.A. had been present. He claimed that the U.S.S.R. in joining the League of Nations was for the benefit of the international working class. He emphasized, however, that the U.S.S.R. joining the league would not stop war but would delay it considerably. Alluding to the disputes over the Chinese Eastern Railway he said that Japan had seized upon this question as one of its principal excuses for starting a war. He urged the audience to join the League Against War and Fascism. Speaking of Fascism in British Columbia, Case intimated that the Special Powers Act constituted a decided step towards Fascism. British Columbia, he stated, had a good example of Fascism when police protection had to be used for the showing of a German Nazi film in the Colonial Theatre in Vancouver recently.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] Organizer for the Workers Unity League in the Coquitlam-Burnaby and Maillardville District, B.C., on his recent visit to Vancouver stated that the objective conditions in the lumber mills along the river are favourable for organizing a branch of the Workers Unity League. [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] is to have an Assistant Organizer.

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William Bennett has again been chosen to act as Instructor and Teacher to the school which is to open again at the Clinton Hall in the City of [✂ #] Vancouver, B.C., shortly. The students are to be hand-picked and approved by the District Bureau before they enrol.

[✂ #] The strike situation in the Pacific Lumber Company's camp at Port Alberni, B.C., remains unchanged. The operators of the camp, however, have been able to engage non-union men with whom the plant is being operated. There is no indication that the strike may spread to other camps.

The Alberni strikers are receiving support from the men in other logging camps. Many contributions have been received from the Young Communist League in Vancouver. Included in the contributions was a cheque for \$90 from the men in Camp No. 3 at Sproat Lake.

IL ALBERTA

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[~~#]~~ The Jewish Fraction of the Communist Party in Edmonton, Alta., held a public meeting in the Scandinavian Hall on 21st October with approximately 80 Jewish people in attendance. [~~deletion: 2/3 line]~~, was the speaker. He outlined the aims and objects of "Icor". He dealt extensively with the opportunities for the Jewish people in the Biro-Bidjan colony in the U.S.S.R. He predicted that the Soviet system will gradually and eventually spread all over the world. Comparing the Biro-Bidjan project with the Jewish settlement scheme in Palestine, he said the latter was ruled by the Capitalist class, by "British Imperialism", for the benefit of Capitalists, whereas Biro-Bidjan was ruled by and for the Jewish workers. He appealed to the audience to organize and support the Jewish workers' press and the Jewish working class organization. An appeal for funds netted over \$50. The Edmonton branch of "Icor", it was revealed, is completely dominated by the Communist Party. It is, in fact, an extension of the latter.

[~~#]~~ The Workers International Relief in Edmonton, Alta., is conducting a kitchen at 9810 Jasper Avenue where all local Communist Party members and others who cannot obtain relief are given free meals. [~~deletion: 1/3 line]~~ are very active collecting food and money for the kitchen.

[10]

At a mass meeting on 21st October the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Calgary, Alta., formulated and accepted a plan of action

[~~#]~~ which will govern their future activities. Included in this plan is a list of demands which the association proposes to submit to the relief authorities.

[✂ #] A recent report from Calgary, Alta., would indicate that the Camp Workers Union organizers have been active in the relief camps in Alberta and British Columbia secretly organizing branches of the union. It is understood that all members of the Camp Workers Union have agreed to immediately go on strike when called upon to do so by the Central Council.

[✂ #] The Communist Party in Calgary, Alta., held a public meeting in the pavilion of the Victoria Park on the evening of 21st October. George Palmer acted as Chairman and the speakers were Pat Lenihan, Lawrence Anderson, Communist candidates for Alderman, and Murdock Clark, a candidate for the School Board. T. C. Sims and William Kashton, both of Toronto, Ont., also spoke.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

8. Southern Saskatchewan Coal Mining Investigation

[✂ #] The deep seam mine operators in the Taylorton and Bienfait Districts have announced a fifteen per cent wage cut to come into effect on 1st November. There are rumours of a further cut due 1st December, 1934.

The trouble seems to be that the deep seam mines are unable to compete with the cheaper surface stripping operations of the Truax-Trauer Company who have not announced any immediate wage reductions.

[11]

Mr. Justice Turgeon will hold an investigation immediately. Pending the results of this enquiry the mine operators have been asked to maintain present wage schedules and price levels.

IV. MANITOBA

[✂ #] 9. Notes

Word has been received from Winnipeg, Man., that M. Lenartovich, leading Communist in Winnipeg, died on 27th October, 1934.

[✂ #] On 28th October the Children's Section of the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg, Man., stages a concert for the benefit of

the press fund of Glos Pracy. The children's group, all small boys and girls from eight to 12 years of age, trained and conducted by Comrade Galin, rendered several musical numbers. The youngsters conducted themselves exceedingly well and made a distinct impression upon the adults and other children.

[✂ #] A strike of bakers at the International Bakery in Winnipeg, Man., was declared at noon on 25th October. The strike is under the leadership of the Bakers and Drivers Section of the Food Workers Industrial Union, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League. The demands are for an eight-hour day and a wage increase up to twenty per cent, also the abolition of piece work.

[✂ #] On 23rd October approximately 100 unemployed led by Martin and Rybak attended a meeting of the Fort William (Ont.) Town Council to support a delegation from the Relief Camp Workers Union which had been selected and instructed to present relief demands to the City Council.

[12]

Martin and Rybak were the spokesmen. The Mayor refused to allow either men to speak because they are not residents of Fort William. Martin then made an unsuccessful attempt to address the assembled unemployed, who then left the City Hall and proceeded to the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association hall where a meeting was held. At this meeting it was agreed that the unemployed proceed to the City Relief Office individually on the following morning to request relief and that if they were refused another attempt would be made to visit the Mayor's office.

V. ONTARIO

10. The Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference

[✂ #] On 24th October the Border Cities Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference held a session in the Norton Palmer Hotel at Windsor, Ont. Approximately 150 were present of which 71 were delegates representing 36 organizations, including the Central United Church, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation of Windsor, the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, the Veterans Forum, the Old Contemptibles, the Socialist Party of Riverside, the Essex County Humane Society and others.

Mrs. R. Rodd and R. Morris reported on the National Anti-War Congress. The conference decided to hold a large mass meeting on 4th November to popularize the decisions of the congress.

It was also decided to hold a peace parade on Armistice Day, 11th November, apart from the military parade which takes place on that day. The veterans present pledged themselves to support the peace parade.

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Eleventh November, Armistice Day, will witness a series of anti-war and anti-Fascist meetings throughout Canada sponsored by the National [✂ #] Committee of the League Against War and Fascism. Instructions to that effect have been sent out by E. A. Beder, national Secretary of the league, to all local organizations. An attempt is being made to secure [✂ deletion: 2/3 line] and previously Professor of Philosophy in Columbia University, to address a mass meeting in the Massey Hall, Toronto, Ont., on that date. [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] is a leading member of the U.S.A. section of the Friends of the Soviet Union and of the American League Against War and Fascism.

[✂ #] On 26th October a party consisting of Roy Adam Schaeffer, Chief Editor of the Hungarian Communist organ, the Kanadai Magyar Munkas (Canadian Hungarian Worker) [✂ deletion: 1 1/4 lines] visited Welland and attended a meeting in the Italian Hall on State Street in the course of the evening. The meeting was attended by 28 persons, all of whom were organizers of the various sections of the Hungarian revolutionary movement, and A. Schaeffer, in the course of a one-hour's talk, stressed the importance of organizing both the unemployed and the employed workers. He urged his listeners to use better tactics in their organizing work and as much secrecy as possible. He said that the time will come when the organizations will be driven underground. At the conclusion of his address he called attention to the November campaign for the Kanadai Magyar Munkas which is being conducted with a view to doubling its circulation.

[✂ #] On 30th October at a meeting of the Hungarian Workers Clubs in Toronto, Ont., it was decided to issue a mimeographed paper in the Hungarian language dealing with

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the problems of the textile workers in Welland, Ont. Its main purpose is to help organizing the textile workers into the Workers Unity League.

[✂ #] A general stoppage of all shops organized into the Shoe and Leather Workers Industrial Union was called in Toronto, Ont., on 28th October, to protest the prohibition of picketing at the Tilley-Williams Shoe Company's plant at New Toronto, which has been on strike since the latter part of July. A victory has been gained and the right to picket recognized by the Reeve of New Toronto who, apparently, has been advised by the Attorney General that picketing is lawful. Picketing without police interference is now guaranteed.

[✂ #] A new mimeographed paper entitled "Silknet Leader" has been added to the list of revolutionary publications in the Province of Ontario. It is being published monthly by the Young Communist League in Toronto. It is a shop paper devoted to the textile industry.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: 4 lines]

VI. QUEBEC

11. C.L.D.L. In Montreal

[✂ #] On 30th October [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] reported to a meeting of the Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., that he had been successful in securing the Atwater Market Hall for a mass meeting on 20th November at which Tom Ewen will be the principal

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speaker. He also said that the Political Bureau of the Communist Party in Toronto, Ont., had recommended that an attempt be made to bring [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] from New York to Montreal, Que., and feature him as the main speaker with Tom Ewen on 20th November. The Secretariat decided to write to the Bureau in Toronto immediately, urging them to get [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] to Montreal for 18th, 19th and 20th November. If [✂ deletion: blank] agrees to come on these dates then the following arrangements will be made: he will give a lecture on the Negro question on the afternoon of 18th November, and in the evening he will be the guest of honour at a banquet of the [✂ deletion: 1/3 line] and on the evening of the

20th he will be featured at the Atwater Hall mass meeting. [X deletion: 2/3 line] in New York, is regarded as a brilliant writer and reported to be a member of the Communist Party of the U.S.A.

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[16]

An anti-Fascist and anti-war mass meeting was held in the Strathcona Hall in Montreal, Que., on the evening of 26th October. Stanley Ryerson [X #] was the main speaker. The meeting was considered a complete failure as only about 75 people attended.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

12. [X deletion: 1 line]

[X deletion: 2/3 page]

[17]

Phil Luck has returned to Cape Breton, N.S., and is now editing The Steel Worker in the absence of [X deletion: 1/4 line] who went to the U.S.S.R. [X #] with the trade union delegation. Luck is assisted by [X deletion: 3/4 line] [X deletion: 3 1/3 lines]

[X #] The Canadian Labour Defence League in Halifax, N.S., held a business meeting on 28th October. [X deletion: 1/4 line] reported that although every effort was made no suitable hall has been secured. He read a list of people who pledged themselves to donate so much a month for the up-keep of a hall.

[X deletion: 1/4 line] read an article dealing with the proposed deportation of [X deletion: 1/4 line] and suggested that when he arrives at the Immigration sheds in Halifax a mass demonstration be staged.
