

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 5th August, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 818

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, sailed on 31st July from Montreal, Que., on the S. S. "Ausonia" to represent his party at the World Peace Congress which is to open on 3rd September in Geneva. Before his departure he conveyed a message to the Communist Press, pledging the support of the C.P.C. for the aims and purposes of the peace movement. It reads, in part:—

"In leaving Canada for Geneva I urge upon all Communist Party members to spare no effort to enter into a firmest alliance with all progressive people and organizations, and particularly with the C.C.F. and trade union workers, in order that labor can be united to fight for peace and prevent the reactionaries from carrying out plans to plunge the world into another war.....

"One of the best ways of doing this is to ensure the election of strong peace delegations of veterans, church people, women, trade unionists and all others who have influence among the people.....

"I hope to meet many Canadians at the Geneva Congress. I also want to greet the delegates to the C.C.F. National Convention when they gather in Toronto on Monday. I know that the majority of them are as anxious as I am to see our two parties pledged to work together as the vanguard for peace, freedom and socialism".

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. The Communist Party and the Trade Union Movement in  
Canada

The National Trade Union Commission of the Communist Party at Toronto, Ont., has recently issued a lengthy document containing detailed instructions to the lower organs on the question of the forthcoming meeting of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. The directives urge the various units of the C.P. throughout Canada to make the necessary preparations for the congress with a view to having local unions pass resolutions calling for “trade union unity” and more autonomy in Canada. The directives further instruct that resolutions be also adopted, and forwarded to the congress, asking all American Federation of Labor unions to approach other unions running parallel to theirs to co-operate in an endeavour to establish one union in a given industry within the A.F. of L.; in other words to endorse the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization headed by John L. Lewis.

In connection with Communist agitation for industrial unionism it is interesting to note that a number of A.F. of L. bodies in Canada have already gone on record in favour of that form of organization. Among those favouring the policy of the C.I.O. is the Essex (Ont.) Trades and Labour Council who, at a recent meeting, went on record endorsing the stand of the C.I.O.

Another document issued by the National Trade Union Commission of the C.P., deals with the forthcoming convention of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees and the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. Communist Party members, particularly those holding membership in the two organizations, are being urged to elect a large block of “progressive” delegates to these conventions; further, that “unity” resolutions be adopted in the local unions and forwarded to the conventions. In this connection the document instructs: “Special attention must be paid to the question of unity and the resolutions coming from national unions to the A.C.C.L. must be of a different type than those dealing with the same subject at the Trades and Labour Congress Convention”. The document then goes on to state that the policy of the

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C.P. stands for trade union unity within the A.F. of L. and for one union in each industry. It, however, does not call for splitting A.C.C.L. unions or for deserting such unions by members of the C.P. The instructions emphasize that

the question of unity must be raised in the A.C.C.L. in a very careful manner; that the resolutions dealing with the subject should be of a general nature and should propose:

- (a) Close co-operation with other unions in the interests of the workers.
- (b) Against unprincipled poaching on other unions.
- (c) Against the ACCL being used by employers who may be involved in strikes with International Unions.
- (d) For moral and material assistance to other unions when engaged in economic struggles.
- (e) That the ACCL should welcome every move for unification of the Canadian T.U. Movement and its officers and locals should co-operate with all [deletion: 1 line] organizational unity of the divided Canadian T.U. Movement.

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### 2. Communists to Pay More Attention to Work Among Children

[deletion: 2 1/4 lines] urges that immediate attention be given to the children's movement and to bring about an improvement in that sphere of work. It is proposed to hold a Leaders' Training School, calculated to develop the necessary leadership. The "Toronto Children's Council", it is said, is planning to hold such a school for training such leaders from 17th to 29th August. It is to be a full-time course with evening lectures and the curriculum is to consist of a variety of theoretical as well as practical subjects including child psychology, history of education, child welfare, leaders' problems, sports, dramatics, organizational problems, etc. Anyone wishing to attend the school must be over 18 years of age and interested in children's work. The circular instructs that special attention should be given to C.C.F. clubs with a view to having students from these clubs attend the school. It is desired, however, that students sent by the C.C.F. clubs be of a "progressive" type.

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### 3. Alberta District of C.P. Launch Move Against Social Credit Party

Anticipating a split in the Social Credit Government, the District Bureau of the Communist Party at Edmonton, in a circular to all its sections and units dated 20th July, calls for the immediate and complete mobilization of the entire Party with a view to developing the broadest form of unity among the progressives in the Social Credit Party and turn same against the Aberhart Government. The circular states in part:—

"In all our mass united front work we must establish the closest possible relation with the Social Credit People so as not to isolate them from the unity movement, as this would only play in the hands of the reactionary forces, who are now working to create a mass base for themselves among the disillusioned Social Credit followers.

"In the country and in the cities our comrades must utilize every opportunity to unite the broadest section of the people around their most burning immediate problems. The question of unemployment and immediate relief for the drought stricken farmers are the best means through which we can unite the broadest section of the people. We should take advantage of every local problem that arises to call conferences, hold mass meetings, etc.

"The local L.M.A. should be contacted and his stand on these questions asserted, delegations and resolutions sent to the Government with demand for immediate action.

"The recently held C.C.F. Convention, which declared itself in favor for unity with the C.P., must now be taken advantage of by our comrades to immediately open up negotiations with C.C.F. clubs in their localities work out together with them a joint program covering the next few months; wherever possible joint mass meetings should be arranged by the C.C.F. and C.P.

"The party must now more than ever before speak openly in its own name on the present political situation in the Province and must become the most outstanding exponent of unity and action.

"Never before in the history of our movement have we had such a task placed on our shoulders as we have today, where we are in a position now to give a lead to the entire progressive section of the population, never have conditions favored successful Communist mass work as is the case today. Within the next few months we will have the possibility to recruit into our party thousands of the best people from the Social Credit Movement.

"The District calls on every section committee, every unit, every member of our party to utilize the present situation to endeavour to build our party into a real mass-party. Do not hesitate but take the initiative into your own hands to throw yourself into the political streams and give bold lead to the people in your locality. Whether we go forward to the building of a progressive people's party in Alberta or if this new mass upsurge that takes place now shall be led into reactionary channels by the Liberal and Conservative Parties, depends entirely upon the initiative and aggressiveness displayed by the members of the C.P. in the daily work of applying our mass policy of unity in action to the extent that we apply the line of the Seventh World Congress to

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the particular situation in Alberta, to that extent will be in a position to check the forces of reaction and gain new victories for the working class.

“With bolshevik courage and initiative in the spirit of the Seventh World Congress and our Central Committee unfurl the flag of unity against the forces of reaction, forward to a progressive people’s party in Alberta”.

The programme advanced by the Communists for this unity movement is as follows:—

(1) Immediate suspension of all interest payments on Provincial, Municipal and Private Debts.

(2) The industrialization of the Province of Alberta to serve the needs of our people and the immediate use of our natural resources to this end.

(3) Relief payments in cash to provide a decent standard of living throughout the province.

(4) All Alberta produce to be made available to the people of Alberta first, and only the surplus to be exported.

(5) Taxation in relation to income and profits:

(a) No income under \$2000 to be taxed. (b) Sales taxes to be abolished and luxury taxes imposed. (c) Increased taxation of corporations and high incomes.

(6) No dispossession of the unemployed at any time. The workers must retain their homes and chattels.

(7) Free school, technical and university training.

(8) State medicine and hospitalization.

(9) Old Age Pension to be widened in the scope of their application to provide for all needful cases, regardless of age.

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#### 4. L.A.W. & F. Plan Anti-War Meetings and Demonstrations 4th August

The League Against War and Fascism intends to hold anti-war demonstrations throughout Canada on 4th August — the 22nd anniversary of Great Britain’s entry into the World War. The demonstrations are to be linked up with the Geneva World Peace Congress and are to serve for the purpose of collecting funds for the delegation to Geneva.

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### 5. Tim Buck Speaks at C.P. Election Meetings in Montreal

Time Buck was the feature speaker at two election meetings held by the Communist Party in the Prince Arthur and St. James Market Halls, Montreal, in the interest of its candidates — Fred Rose and Evariste Dube — on the evening of 30th July.

The meeting in the St. James Market Hall was attended by approximately 1,500 people, the majority of whom were French Canadians, and opened with the singing of the "International". [§deletion:2 words] named Giguere presided and short speeches were also given by Victor Larouche and Germain Desrosiers.

Prolonged cheers greeted Tim Buck when he rose to speak. He capitalised the recent victory achieved in the Manitoba Provincial election in Winnipeg and urged the workers of Montreal to extend this victory by electing the two Communist standard bearers to the Quebec Provincial House.

The meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall was attended by a capacity audience. Whereas the audience at the St. James Market Hall was predominantly French Canadian, the people attending the Prince Arthur Hall meeting were mostly foreigners.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 7. B.C. District of U.L.F.T.A. Holds Convention in Vancouver

The B.C. District of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Ass'n. held its annual convention at Vancouver on 25th and 26th July. The financial report for the past year showed a total income of \$7,600.73; the expenses were \$7,432.61. In addition to the foregoing quoted income the Vancouver Branch of the association collected for the Ukrainian Labour News \$1,022.30 and for the "class fight", i.e., strikes, etc., \$3,016.25.

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The summer camp which was recently purchased by a joint committee of trade unionists and others situated on the North Arm of Burrard Inlet at Bamfield, B.C., is off to a very bad start from a Communist Party point of view. The camp was intended by the Communists, who sponsored the proposition, to be strictly non-political and non-sectarian but [§deletion:3 1/2 lines]

succeeded in antagonizing the volunteer staff of cooks and helpers and at the end of the first day, 13th July, the children were ready to quit and return to their homes. The C.P. District Bureau in Vancouver had hoped to make this a summer camp at which children from all sections of the community would be eager to go and they had no desire to run the camp at all if other organizations would take a hand, so long as they were in control of the educational future of the camp.

A tag day held in the city of Vancouver some time ago netted \$984 for this project.

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The Workers Ex-Service Men's League at Vancouver is said to have decided to take part in all parades held during Warriors' Week from 2nd to 8th August. It was further decided that only one banner be carried, the same one that was used in the May Day parade bearing the inscription "Ex-Service Men's League, United Against War and Fascism". It was considered inadvisable to display the usual radical slogans in the Warriors' parade.

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## II. ALBERTA

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The Communist Party at Calgary has opened a school for the purpose of acquainting its members more fully with the correct knowledge in Leninism. [~~deletion:2 lines~~] The attendance thus far is said to be confined to the local Party members but it is understood that several out-of-town members are attending the class.

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## III. MANITOBA

### 9. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Continue Demonstrations Against Provincial Relief System



The Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. at Winnipeg held a meeting in the Market Square on 26th July with approximately 300 in attendance. W. McNeil, S. Doyle and G. Bayden were the speakers. Doyle announced that definite action would be taken shortly with regard to the "soup kitchens" and urged the members to rally behind the association. "I am not going to say what we are going to do", he remarked, and added that the comrades would be informed in due course. Bayden dealt with the question of maintaining the picket line in front of the Legislative Building and urged the members to turn out in larger numbers. S. Harkin also predicted concrete action with regard to the soup kitchens. He said, "Next week we are going to take drastic steps in the soup kitchen, outside them and on the Parliament Building grounds, I appeal to you all to vote for a full Labour slate in the Provincial election, putting Jim Litterick at the top of the list".

On the morning of 30th July approximately 100 pickets were put off the grounds of the Legislative Buildings by the police for trespassing. They were informed that no trespassing or loitering would henceforth be permitted on the grounds. After remaining on the sidewalks adjacent to the grounds, the men, on instructions from Melanson, their leader, dispersed.

About 3.00 p.m. on the 30th a large party of men, marching four abreast, and numbering about 500, marched up Memorial Boulevard from Portage Avenue, towards the Legislative Buildings. They were met

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by the police at the Broadway entrance to the Legislative Buildings, and stopped. W. Melanson stated that they desired to have a meeting for the purpose of hearing the report of the delegation that had interviewed the Relief Commission. J. Stewart stated that he was spokesman for the married unemployed men and that they desired to see the Provincial Government in respect to the grievances of the married unemployed men. He was informed that they would not be permitted to march on the grounds. He then requested that one of their party be permitted to go into the Legislative Buildings to interview the Deputy Minister of Public Works. Two men, J. Stewart and W. Melanson, were allowed to proceed into the Legislative Buildings where they acquainted the guard at the door with their requests and were taken to various departments. It is understood that no one would see these two men. Following this unsuccessful attempt to interview Government officials, the demonstrators gathered on Memorial Boulevard immediately north of Broadway and were addressed by three different speakers. The meeting broke up at about 4.15 p.m.

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IV. QUEBEC

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The summer camp "Nitgedieget" conducted by the [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] Canadian Workmen's Circle (Jewish) at Shawbridge, Que., is said to be enjoying a very successful season this year. An average of 200 people are attending the camp per week and the children's camp, which is adjacent to the adult camp, accommodates approximately 50 children who are permitted to stay for two weeks only during which they are being taught revolutionary plays, songs and the rudiments of Marxism. One week is being reserved especially for French children and it is expected that about 50 French children will attend during this season.

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