

NO. 1

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 12th August, 1936.

SECRETNO. 819WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Jacob Penner, notorious Communist and member of the Winnipeg City Council, will be nominated as Communist Party candidate in The Pas (Man.) constituency to contest that seat in the deferred Provincial election which takes place on 27th August, it was announced by the Communist Party District Bureau at Winnipeg recently.

Approximately 1,000 men employed at No. 2 Colliery at Glace Bay, Cape Breton, came out on strike on 11th August for higher pay. Indications are that the strike may spread to other mines.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL**I. Executive Council of American Federation of Labor
Suspends 10 Powerful International Unions
and Their Leaders**

On 5th August the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor found 10 of the 12 industrial union exponents "guilty" of fomenting "insurrection" and ordered them suspended unless they drop their membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization. The council also decided to suspend 10 international unions with a membership of over 1,000,000 for their participation in the Committee for Industrial Organization. The vote was 13 to one. David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers and one of the leading members of the Committee for Industrial Organization cast the only dissenting vote. The two unions which received preferential treatment at the hands of the council are the International Typographical Union and the Cap, Hat and Millinery Workers. The immediate resignation of Dubinsky from the council has been forecast.

The unions suspended are: the United Mine Workers of America; the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; the International Ladies' Garment Workers the United Textile Workers; the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers; the Flat Glass Workers; the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers; the United Automobile Workers and the United Rubber Workers.

The decision of the council climaxed the fight in the American Federation of Labor which began last November when John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, and others formed the Committee for Industrial Organization. Their announced purpose was to unionize all the workers in mass production industries into industrial unions. They appropriated \$500,000 for this purpose and commenced to organize workers in the steel industry and then spread their efforts to the rubber, automobile and radio industries.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor and head of the council who ordered the suspension of the unions, declared that it was not a fight between industrial or craft policies but a question of dual organization.

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Stating that the decision of the council will not change the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization, John L. Lewis is reported to have made the following announcement:—

“An act of incredible and crass stupidity. An act dictated by personal selfishness and frantic fear. It indicates a total absence of consideration for the well-being of the nation’s workers and the requirement of an effective movement of labor.

“The executive council would not trust the judgment of a convention of the *Federation which meets in November*. It hastened to prejudice the action of the convention by stripping the defendant unions of their voting privileges.

“The constitution of the Federation contains no warrant for the exercise of such arbitrary power. It amounts to an appalling blunder which Mr. Green and his confederates may continuously rue.

“We will not disband the Committee for Industrial Organization. The decision of the executive council will not change the policy of the C.I.O., nor will it have effect upon the organizing activities of the committee.

“The committee has made its position clear. Its plans to aid the workers in steel and other industries will continue unabated. The shame of the act of dismemberment will lie on the heads of the council and they can answer”.

What effect the action of the council of the American Federation of Labor will have on Canadian unions only time will tell. Needless to say that the Communist Party of Canada is making every effort to advance the fight against William Green, for industrial unionism, and in support of John L. Lewis who, although known as an outspoken anti-Communist, is helping the Communists to realize the slogan “One union for each industry” which has been sponsored by the Communist Party ever since its formation in Canada in 1921. The Communist press both here and in the U.S.A. has, ever since the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed, taken a very active and leading part in support of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

The Communist Party position in relation to the Committee for Industrial Organization is somewhat explained in the following editorial appearing in the 7th August edition of its central organ —

Daily Clarion:—

“The long fight by the reactionary, craft unionist wing of the executive council to oust the progressive forces seeking to modernize and strengthen the international unions, has come to this: that they are determined to try to split the A.F. of L. rather than submit to the growing demand for a really virile, efficiently organized trade union movement which will be set up along the lines of modern industry instead

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of antiquated crafts and which will vigorously campaign to organize the mass production industries, steel, rubber, auto and others.

“Such a policy on the part of the A.F. of L. reactionary leaders if allowed to go unchecked, will spell disaster. At the present time, when the responsibilities of the unions are greater than ever before, and when trade union unity is the crying need of labor to permit a handful of die-hards to bureaucratically crack open the A.F. of L. spells suicide.

“There is no doubt that a tremendous resistance to Green and Frey will be mobilized inside the international unions. Already the most important trades councils and dozens of local unions in Canada have come out for industrial organization.

“The coming Trades and Labor Congress convention, which is the organ in Canada of the international unions, has as its duty an expression of strong condemnation of Green’s splitting decision.

“Local unions, trades councils, union progressives everywhere should at one protest this decision both to their international headquarters and to the Trades and Labor Congress.

“The weight of the Canadian international unions must be thrown behind John L. Lewis and against William Green”.

There is every indication that the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization will be a lively issue at the 52nd Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada which opens in Montreal, Que., on 8th September. Communist Party members have already been active in the various unions and central bodies affiliated with the congress with a view to having the convention flooded with resolutions favouring the industrial form of organization.

Along with the movement for industrial unionism there is being experienced in Canada profound radicalization of trade unions, due to a large extent to the liquidation of the various unions affiliated with the Workers Unity League and their return to the American Federation of Labor. Many of the revolutionary trade unionists, members of the Communist Party of Canada, formerly in the Workers Unity League, are now back in the American Federation of Labor unions and are making their influence felt. In practically all of the important central bodies of the American Federation of Labor in Canada Communist influence has grown considerably since the liquidation of the Workers Unity League. The following extract from a report submitted by a well informed observer at Vancouver, B.C., is typical of the developments and the changes that have taken place:—

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“Where, heretofore, the little clique of P. R. Bengough, W. Thomson, Colin McDonald et al in the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council has been in position to carry on against the

radical element without considering it as very much else than a thorn in the side, the situation has now developed to a point where it is a struggle for existence. The Bengough following seems almost up against the wall, and its campaign will apparently now have to be one of defence.

"A year ago the best the radicals (mostly Communists or men of Communistic leaning) could do was produce a negative vote of 30, as against 80 to 100. In the last election of officers, held 21st July, the situation changed. At the meeting on 7th July more than 30 new delegates were obligated. These were mostly comparatively young men, with a sprinkling of old timers, the latter including [§deletion:name] who a few months ago was expelled as a delegate because of Communistic leanings. He has been sent back as delegate for his organization, the Steam and Operating Engineers.

"When the election date came the radicals offered a full slate, contesting every election. Their candidates included [§deletion:4 1/2 lines] In every case the vote was a victory for Bengough's side, but the count was close. It ranged 60 to 65 radical votes; 65 to 74 for Bengough candidates. Five votes would have turned the election in any case".

2. World Committee Against War and Fascism Issues Appeal on Behalf of Spanish Government

[§deletion:3-4 words] "World Committee Against War and Fascism" has addressed an appeal to all its national leagues (sections) and to all who oppose Fascism to show active solidarity with the Popular Front Government in Spain. The appeal reads:—

"The World Committee Against War and Fascism calls upon all friends of peace and freedom to demonstrate their fraternal solidarity with the heroically fighting Spanish people.

"The Spanish fight for freedom is part of the world battle against the forces of fascist reaction and criminal war making.

"In the name of millions of men and women, the World Committee has addressed a telegram to Azana, the President of the Spanish Republic, and to Jose Giral, the Spanish Prime Minister, to express its unity with the masses of the Spanish people.

"We appeal to you to express your active sympathy with the Spanish workers, peasants and intellectuals by mass meetings, resolutions, telegrams, etc.

"We call on you to organize immediate action in aid of those wounded in the fight for freedom and in aid of the families of those fallen in battle.

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“Support to the utmost extent of your power the cause of the brave Spanish people, the cause of which we all uphold”.

The telegram sent to President Azana by the World Committee reads:—

“The World Committee Against War and Fascism in the name of its millions of adherents sends warm fraternal greetings to the Spanish Government and heroically fighting Spanish people, the defenders of peace and freedom. Your heroic struggle is part of the international struggle against the pernicious forces of fascism and war. Millions of men and women in all countries at this hour are deeply conscious of the bonds linking them with you. We have launched an appeal to all our Leagues and Committees and sympathetic organizations to demonstrate actively their solidarity with you and to afford every possible help, by collections in aid of the wounded, by organization of Red Cross units, etc. The World Committee Against War and Fascism has resolved to send immediately a delegation to Spain to convey the expression of international solidarity with the Spanish people.

“Fraternal militant greetings to the heroic Spanish people fighting in the cause of humanity”.

(signed) Professor Paul Langevin
 Andre Malraux
 Jean Longuet
 Francis Jourdain

In Canada little has been done so far to comply with the appeal of the World Committee Against War and Fascism beyond a concentrated effort on the part of the Communist press to crystalize a sentiment favourable to the present government of Spain. There are indications, however, that the matter will receive attention shortly and that the people of Canada will be called upon to make financial contributions to the cause of the Spanish Government.

An Associated Labour Press (Communist) despatch from Moscow, dated 6th August, published in the Communist press here states that “the Soviet Trade Union Council today deposited 12,145,000 rubles in the State Bank here asking that the sum be transferred to a corresponding sum of 36,435,000 French francs and transmitted at once to Premier Giral of Spain”. This, the despatch states, represents the first instalment of a huge fund which is being raised by the Soviet Trade Unions throughout the country to aid the Spanish People’s Front Government in its fight against the Fascists. The despatch further indicates that thousands of meetings have been held and millions of workers in factories, laboratories and schools have pledged part of their wages towards the cause of the Spanish People’s Front.

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3. National Convention of Co-operative Commonwealth
Federation Rejects Communist United Front
Proposal

Notwithstanding the actions of the Provincial Conventions in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan in endorsing the United Front policy of the Communist Party of Canada, the National Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation held in Toronto, Ont., 3rd to 5th August, decided by a vote of 88 to seven not to ally itself with any other political group and thereby closed the door against co-operation with the Communist Party on political issues. While retaining its political independence the meeting agreed, however, to co-operate with other groups in the economic spheres and on such matters as "defence of civil liberties", "fight against war and fascism", "unemployment", etc.

The tactics pursued by the Communists are somewhat revealed in a letter addressed by Sam Carr on behalf of the Communist Party of Canada to the delegates attending the convention. The letter reads, in part, as follows:—

"Grave problems face the common people of Canada. Though capitalist profits have achieved a 'new normalcy', the unemployed people of Canada are subject to ever-growing misery. The overwhelming majority of the working class remain unorganized and the lack of powerful, militant organization among the Canadian farmers makes them easy prey for mortgage and implement companies as well as government tax collection agencies.

"Though the people compelled the repeal of Section 98, the Liberal governments, in an attempt to enforce further starvation conditions and prevent the growth of anti-capitalist forces, are unleashing a new wave of terror, as exemplified in the so-called 'kidnapping charges' in Ontario. Over all these problems like a sinister cloud, hangs the ever-growing danger of war, accentuated for the Canadian people by the policy of the Liberal government at Ottawa, a policy which, shrouded in would-be peace phrases nevertheless completely supports the war and pro-fascist policies of the British National government.

"The people of Canada are restless. The results of the federal as well as all recently-held provincial elections show that the Canadian people are searching for a way out....

"It is our contention that the C.C.F. can, in line with the Regina Manifesto, become the Farmer-Labor party of Canada, in the broadest meaning of the term. To achieve this, we respectfully submit that the

affiliation to the C.C.F. of the trade unions, the Communist Party and all working class progressive associations should be sought.

"The Communist Party of Canada sincerely pledges itself to work energetically to build the C.C.F. as the all-embracing Farmer-Labor Party of the Canadian people. Feeling the great need for such unity, the Communist Party of Canada is prepared, without delay, to affiliate to the C.C.F.

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"Only as an all-inclusive Farmer-Labor Party of Canada, could the C.C.F. successfully prevent the possibility of the Conservatives assuming now a demagogic 'left' mask and once more getting the people of Canada to vote for them as an alternative. The C.C.F., embracing all progressive forces, can wage a struggle for the leadership of the Canadian people and prevent leaders of the Aberhart and Stevens type from being able to influence the common people of the Dominion who, in desperate plight, look for a way out of their misery.

"Unity is the need of the hour the world over. In France, our brothers of the Socialist Party, joining hands with the Communists and all progressives, have successfully repelled the onrush of fascism. They are passing over to an offensive to gain concession after concession for the common people and win the overwhelming majority of the French people for socialism. We can and should follow the example of our French brothers and strive to align Canada with the peace forces in the world, led by the country of victorious socialism, the USSR.

"In Spain, it was unity of all progressive forces that won the last elections and it is this united effort that is now expressing itself in the glorious battle of all progressives against the cut-throats and assassins gathered by the capitalists of Spain who felt that they were rapidly approaching a period when the people would dispossess them and the rightful owners of Spanish wealth would come into their own.

"In country after country, unity has proven itself to be not only the main defense of the common people, but also the strongest weapon of the offensive for socialism. Unity in France, Spain, Austria, Italy and hundreds of united actions in every country of the world should be a great lesson to us in Canada.

"Every section of the labor and progressive movement is of greatest concern to all of us in this movement. It is because of this that we hope you will fully consider the great problem of unity and fittingly continue the steps taken by the C.C.F. conventions in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

“Permit us to take this opportunity to invite your Party to send a delegation to the Ninth Congress of our Party, to be held during the first half of October, in the city of Toronto.

“On the eve of his departure for Europe to attend the World Peace Congress, Comrade Tim Buck, the general sec’y. of our Party, asked that we convey his personal greetings to your third national convention.”

Characterizing the decisions of the convention as “a step forward” the Daily Clarion for 7th August editorially refuses to accept defeat and urges the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation members throughout Canada to “carry through their convention’s decision to co-operate with other progressive groups to advance the daily struggle against hunger, reaction and the danger of war”. It further expresses the hope that the National Council, in exercising the power given it in the resolution calling for such co-operation, will not in the future resort to expulsions.

It is interesting to note that those leading members of the C.C.F., members of the Regional Toronto Council who were expelled on 9th May by the Provincial Council for participating in the May Day demonstration at Toronto this year were reinstated just prior to the National Convention.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

4. C.P. Meeting in Vancouver Well Attended

An audience that filled the Colonial Theatre at Vancouver to capacity listened on 2nd August to Malcolm Bruce speak on recent developments in the B.C. Provincial organization of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Communist Party. Bruce dealt particularly with the refusal on the part of Mr. Robert Connell to accept the platform passed by the recent B.C. Provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and accused Mr. Connell for not wishing to accept the responsibility of the United Front. Bruce also presented what he termed the Communist Party position with regard to the United Front and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Party.

A short speech was also given by Jack Taylor, who presided over the meeting, on the present situation in Spain and the work of the Communists there. He attributed the “success” to the United Front formed by the various Left Wing factions under Communist Party leadership.

II. MANITOBA

5. Winnipeg Unemployed Discontinue Picketing Legislative Bldg.

Having been warned by the Provincial authorities that no further loitering would be tolerated on the grounds surrounding the Legislative Building, the leaders of the Single Men's Unemployed Association decided to abandon the picketing of the building for the time being.

About 400 single unemployed attended a meeting of the Single Men's Unemployed Association in the Market Square at Winnipeg on the evening of 2nd August. The meeting was addressed by Grainger, Nicholson, Bayden and Doyle. Grainger cited as one of the achievements of the campaign waged by the Single Men's Unemployed Association the election of Jim Litterick, Communist Party candidate, to the Manitoba Provincial Legislature. Nicholson discussed conditions in the "soup kitchens",

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and James Bayden spoke on the "misery of the ex-service men under Capitalism". Stanley Doyle indulged in a tirade against the Provincial Government and expressed the belief that Jim Litterick would champion the cause of the single unemployed in the Legislature.

Leaders of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed are said to be taking steps to organize the unemployed throughout the province and to that end are sending F. Atwater and R. Towle on a speaking tour throughout the province. They are to visit a number of cities and towns including Brandon, Deloraine, Souris, Virden, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Dauphin and The Pas.

George Drayton, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] is said to have left Winnipeg for The Pas to assist in the election campaign waged on behalf of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidate in that constituency.

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism at Winnipeg held a meeting on the Market Square on the night of 4th August commemorating the 22nd anniversary of Great Britain's entry into the World War. Only 350 people attended and the speakers were George Drayton and R. Towle. Before adjournment the chairman read a resolution protesting to the German Government

against the landing of troops and sailors in Spanish Morocco. The resolution was unanimously accepted.

A "victory" picnic was held by the Communists of Winnipeg on 2nd August at the farm owned by the Workers Benevolent Association in East Kildonan to celebrate the election of Jim Litterick to the Provincial Legislature. It is said that approximately 3,000 attended, and Jim Litterick and N. Shatulsky delivered very spirited addresses on the "dawn of a new era". They both expressed the belief that the "people are awakening" and that the Communist representative in the Legislature will have an opportunity of proving his worthiness as a true representative of the people. Litterick assured the audience that he will do everything in his power to justify the confidence placed in

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him and expressed the hope that additional Communist candidates would be elected at the next election.

III. ONTARIO

6. Toronto L.A.W. & F. Holds Successful "Peace" Demonstration on 4th August

The 22nd anniversary of Great Britain's entry into the World War was commemorated at Toronto by several thousand people who gathered at Queens Park under the auspices of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism to hear a number of speakers expound the "imminence of war" and stress the necessity of fighting against its outbreak. A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, presided over the meeting and the speakers included Leslie Morris, editor of the Daily Clarion, Harold E. Winch, M.L.A. of Vancouver; Norman Levy, chairman of the Canadian Youth Council; Ida Segal, delegate to the Geneva Peace Congress; Major Pugsley, and Captain A. Handley Geary, V.C.

Following the addresses a crowd numbering approximately 4,000 lined up in fours, bearing anti-war slogans and carrying torches and glaring flares, marched to the Cenotaph where Captain A. H. Geary placed a wreath. The parade took more than 20 minutes to pass, stopping all traffic for blocks and causing street cars to be re-routed while thousands lined the streets to applaud the demonstrators. The banners bore slogans such as "Organize a Million Canadians for Peace"; "The Trade Unions Can Stop War"; and "The Workers Pay the Cost of War". Reaching the Cenotaph the crowd quickly overflowed

the Square in front of the City Hall and thousands were lining up along Queen and Bay Streets.

After the ceremony at the Cenotaph the demonstrators dispersed in a peaceful manner.

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