

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 7th October, 1936.

SECRETNO. 827WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

[~~deletion:2 lines~~] Tim Buck calls for action by the Canadian people in support of the Spanish Government. "The world is at the cross roads", he says, "all the energy of our Party and every friend of peace must go into support of the Spanish people". He appeals to the Canadian people to raise finances, to send food stuffs, to send medical supplies and to prevail upon the Canadian Government to support the Spanish Government at Geneva.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Convention of Ontario Federation on Unemployment

The Ontario Provincial Convention on Unemployment held by the Ontario Federation on Unemployment at the Labour Temple, Toronto, Ont., on 24th, 25th and 26th September was attended by over 70 delegates from various cities

and municipalities. These delegates, it was claimed by the leaders of the Federation, represented 61,000 organized unemployed of Ontario. There were also present 15 fraternal delegates from labour and civic organizations. Harvey Murphy, chairman of the convention, in his opening remarks said: "This conference today is the best represented and the most influential in the history of our Unemployed Movement".

Greetings were submitted to the convention by Acting Mayor Robbins, officially representing the City of Toronto. Alderman Tom Raycraft of Windsor, Reverend Ben H. Spence, acting as representative of two organizations — the Citizens Defence Committee and the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy — Graham Spry, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Provincial Council, Reeve Arthur Williams of East York, Stewart Smith, [deletion:name] of the Communist Party of Canada, Georgina Ketcheson, Women's Labour League of Windsor and Fred Collins, official delegate of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council.

As the first official trade union delegate to any unemployed conference, Collins' speech showed the change that is taking place in the attitude in certain sections of the Trade Union Movement towards the Unemployed Movement. He remarked: "The Trades Council has now realized the necessity of overcoming the situation where the jobless are being used as a potential labour market to drive down wage scales; we say that we are now definitely behind the unemployed and will support them to the limit for improvements in the living standards of all workers. It can be done and it will be done through unity".

George Bennett, Mayor of Windsor, forwarded a letter in which he expressed greetings and his regrets of being unable to attend. He said in part: "I hope that things will ease up here so that I may eventually associate with you on some other occasion in the great work

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you are attempting to the end that corrections might be brought about in the distressed conditions facing the unemployed. May I again express my regrets and trust that the convention will be more than expected and that much good may come of it to the workers of the province".

George Harris, secretary of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment, Ewart Humphreys and Harry Rushton were the main reporters. Numerous resolutions were before the convention. The convention expressed the belief that "the budgeting system is the most hellish invention of the relief authorities and must receive the attention of the jobless throughout the province for its abolition".

George Harris, dealing with the past year's activity, stressed the importance of correct methods of organization. Following the discussion on his report, the convention decided to organize on the basis of the prevailing local conditions depending on whether the unemployed work for relief. Affiliation through payment of a per capita tax of two cents per member through the purchase of stamps from the Ontario Federation on Unemployment was approved as were proposals for a standard membership card and the setting up of Regional Councils where possible under the initiative of the Federation.

Tribute to their work during the past year and confidence in their ability to provide leadership in the future was accorded Harvey Murphy and George Harris when the delegates at the final session re-elected them as president and secretary, respectively, of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment. It is significant to note that both elections were unopposed. Shaw-Keith of Long Branch and Romeo Bazinet of Hawkesbury were elected as vice-presidents; Ray Law of East York was appointed treasurer; and J. L. Cohen, Toronto barrister, was elected to the Executive Board. He will act as leading counsel for the Federation. The Provincial Council for the ensuing year as endorsed by the convention includes Chadwick, of Midland, Ont., Ritchie of Guelph, F. Towers, of Oshawa, Gordon of Niagara Falls, Mitchell of London, Alderman Howard of Fort William, C. Turner of Hamilton, T. Devitt of Windsor, R. Decaire of Espanola, Georgina Ketcheson of Windsor, Rosaire Bazinet of Hawkesbury, D. Vondette of Pembroke, Reg. Ranton of Stratford, A. A. McNeil of Kitchener,

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T. Venard of Markham, B. Anderson of Westboro, Lush of Long Branch, and Atkinson of Sioux Lookout. Members of the council are to act as official representatives and organizers of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment in their districts.

The final resolution passed by the convention was an official and unanimous vote of thanks to the Communist organ, Daily Clarion. The resolution passed unanimously to the applause of the delegates.

The convention differed in two respects from all others held previously. It was attended by new people, new leaders who have developed recently, and secondly the delegates present represented new territory, wider area than ever before. Formerly conferences of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment were confined to representation from Southern Ontario — Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton and London. Although an attempt was made to hide the fact that the organization has been organized by the Communists, [~~deletion:1 line~~] in Southern Ontario — Harvey Murphy and George Harris — were elected to the main offices of this organization.

2. Split in the All-Canadian Congress of Labour

A serious split has developed in the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. It is reported that at a meeting of [deletion: 1/4 line] held on the eve of the Sixth Convention of the Congress scheduled to convene at Toronto, Ont., on 28th September, a dispute arose between A. R. Mosher, president of the congress, and W. T. Burford, secretary-treasurer, over the latter's report which he had prepared for the convention. Mosher is said to have objected to the attitude expressed by Burford in his report and in the columns of the official organ of the congress toward the question of unity and Communism.

[deletion: 1/2 line] Mr. Burford issued a statement to the effect that Mr. Mosher had resigned the presidency and that the convention called to meet in Toronto had been adjourned. Burford further stated that all unions concerned had been notified by telegraph of the temporary postponement of the convention. Mr. Mosher replied by declaring he had not resigned, that the convention would be held as

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scheduled, and that he had sent out a counter-statement to as many delegates as he could reach announcing that the convention would convene as per schedule.

The convention opened in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, at 11.00 A.M. on 28th September, under the presidency of A. R. Mosher and with approximately 40 delegates in attendance. A small group of the anti-Mosher faction gathered around the corridors in the hotel but made no attempt to interfere with the proceedings. The Credentials Committee reported accredited delegates from the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, said to have 14,000 members and the most powerful individual organization affiliated with the congress, the Canadian Association of Railway Enginemen, the National Union of Printers and the National Union of Clothing Workers. The convention empowered Mosher to carry on as president, elected the various convention committees and instructed J. L. Cohen, Toronto attorney, to apply for an injunction against W. T. Burford restraining him from using funds or the Canadian Unionist, the All-Canadian Congress of Labour organ, and other property until such time a decision is made as to the disposal and control of the property. An interim injunction was granted by Mr. Justice W. T. Henderson of the Ontario Supreme Court on 30th September.

Explaining the differences in the Executive Committee, Mosher informed the convention that for over a year there had appeared certain articles and editorials in the Canadian Unionist which, he thought, were contrary to the

principles of the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. The editor, Mosher declared, was remonstrated with and told it was not the policy of the All-Canadian Congress of Labour to publish such articles. Most of the editorials, he stated, condemned all progressive minded people and branded them as Anarcho-Communists and agents of Moscow. "I asked Burford", he continued, "to more or less confine himself to the report on the National Labour Movement; I became angry, particularly when Burford said that the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees — of which I am president also—was controlled by some outside source. I told them that I would meet them at the congress and walked out of the Executive Board meeting".

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The convention went on record as favouring closer co-operation between various trade unions and for the perspective of one all-embracing trade union centre in Canada. This sentiment is expressed in the following resolutions passed by the convention:—

(a) "Whereas, all trade unions at present are desirous of improving working conditions and raising wages from the crisis level still prevailing and whereas we deplore the fact that the trade unions in Canada are divided into different affiliations which situation prevents more powerful action, therefore, be it resolved, that this convention go on record as favoring closer co-operation between different trade unions on political questions and for the perspective and finally achieving one all-embracing body of trade unions in Canada".

(b) "That in view of the confusion and disorganization which result from the antagonisms existing between Canadian unions and other organizations, be it resolved that the congress show its willingness to co-operate with other workers organizations on questions of common interest".

The convention also passed a resolution requesting the Government to introduce legislation guaranteeing the workers the right to belong to organizations of their choice and making it a criminal and punishable offence for any employer to interfere with these rights.

A. R. Mosher was unanimously re-elected president of the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, a position which he held since the founding of the congress in 1927. The congress severed connections with the group led by W.T. Burford and elected a new executive as follows:—

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|---------------------------|---|
| Secretary-Treasurer | [deletion:name] member of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. |
| 1st Vice-President | [deletion:name] |
| 2nd Vice-President | [deletion:name] |

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|-----------------------|--|
| Executive Board | [deletion:name] National Printers Union Ottawa. |
| | [deletion:name] Clothing Workers, Toronto. |
| | [deletion:name] Canadian Brother- hood of Railway Employees, Toronto. |

President Mosher said no attempt will be made to bring the five executives who have been replaced back into the congress. "We will make no overtures to them but possibly to the organizations they represent", he remarked. The convention adopted the report of president Mosher which was very sympathetic to the industrial form of organization.

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Commenting on the labour situation in the United States, Mosher applauded the work of John L. Lewis and his Committee for Industrial Organization and expressed hope the committee would co-operate with national unions in Canada.

The members of the executive opposing Mosher refused to recognize the legality of the Toronto meeting and stated that a regular convention will be called later on.

3. Eighth National Congress of C.P. of C. Postponed

The Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of Canada, which was to have convened at Toronto, Ont., on 9th October, has been indefinitely postponed, it was announced by Sam Carr, acting general secretary of the Party, on 30th September. The reason given for the postponement was that Tim Buck, who is reported to be in Spain at present, was unable to return in time for the opening of the convention. Privately, however, Sam Carr stated that the convention has been postponed in order to give Tim Buck an opportunity to visit Moscow to confer with the Executive Committee of the Communist International with a view to revising the "line" of the Canadian party. Tim Buck is the Canadian representative on the Executive Committee of the Communist International, having been officially elected to that position at the Seventh Congress of the Communist International held at Moscow during August, 1935.

4. Spanish Popular Front Delegation to Tour Canada

Three distinguished leaders of the Spanish Popular Front are to arrive on this continent shortly for a speaking tour in aid of the Madrid Government's cause, it was announced by A. A. McLeod, chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, in a cable from Paris recently. "The Canadian people", McLeod said in the cable, "must protest the sanctions against the democratic Government of Spain while German and Italian Fascists openly supply the Rebels with arms". McLeod is scheduled to return to Canada from Europe about 10th October following which he will tour Canada speaking on the situation in Spain

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and on the World Peace Congress. He will likely accompany the Spanish delegates for a part of their Canadian tour.

5. Trouble on Vancouver's Waterfront Not Anticipated

Persistent rumours that there is to be trouble on the waterfront caused by Communists appear to have no foundation in fact. Colour to these rumours was lent when [§deletion:name] led a delegation of unemployed dock workers, men who participated in the last waterfront strike at Vancouver, B.C., and who have been unable to secure employment since, to the City Hall recently in protest against the action of the British Columbia Shipping Federation in refusing to hire ex-strikers. It would appear that the Communist leadership is reconciled to the idea of two years' work in organization before they can hope to make themselves felt on the waterfront again. The effect of the San Francisco waterfront dispute will be rather negligible at Vancouver, especially in view of the fact that San Francisco shipping interests have developed a new tactic in meeting the situation in that port by diverting freights to unaffected ports instead of using non-union longshoremen under police protection.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA6. Single Unemployed Men Returning to Vancouver

Single unemployed men are arriving in Vancouver at the rate of at least 15 a day. Vancouver Police had their first trouble arising out of the influx to the city of these men when 59 unlicensed vendors of artificial flowers appeared on the downtown streets on 22nd September. Each of the vendors bore a large placard which read: "Homeless! No Work! No Relief! Help Us — Buy A Flower". When the vendors suddenly appeared on the street, constables told them to desist and when they continued to accost citizens and refused to move on 10 of them were taken into custody on charges of obstructing the police.

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On 25th September a bazaar was held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Vancouver ostensibly in aid of the Canadian Labour Defence League but actually to raise funds for [~~3 words~~] the Communist Party of Canada in that city. The total receipt of the bazaar amounted to \$194.

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Tom Ewen and Val. Christie, the latter of the Young Communist League, addressed a meeting held under the auspices of the [~~3 words~~] Communist Party of Canada, at the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, on 21st September. Arthur Evans acted as chairman. Tom Ewen outlined the different struggles of the Canadian youth, stressing particularly the on-to-Ottawa trek of 1935. He urged organization of the youth and a United Youth Movement throughout Canada as a means "to assert the position of youth". Val. Christie spoke on the need of a youth paper to aid in organizing the youth and urged the audience to subscribe to and support the youth paper Advance.

The meeting closed with the singing of the "International".

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II. ALBERTA

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III. MANITOBA

8. Convention of District #7 (Manitoba) of C.P. of C.

A public meeting attended by approximately 600 people in the Concert Hall of the Civic Auditorium at Winnipeg on the evening of 25th September marked the opening of the Manitoba District Convention of the Communist Party. A large picture of Tim Buck and the Party's emblem, together with two large slogans "Greetings to Our Heroic Spanish Brothers and Sisters" and "For A Popular Front Against War And A United Front For Peace", decorated the stage on which sat the leading delegates to the convention including John Navizowski, leader of the Ukrainian Section, Alderman Jacob Penner, Alderman M. J. Forkin, A. Bilecki, member of the Winnipeg School Board, Jim Litterick, M.L.A., Bill Ross, of the Young Communist League, M. Sago, John Boychuk, M. Yasny, editor of Kanadsky Gudok, and others.

John Navizowski officially opened the meeting with a short speech, in the course of which he remarked that this was the first open District Convention held in the Province of Manitoba since 1931, made possible by the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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"Our meetings used to be held in barns and other secluded premises and in secret during the past five years", he said, "but now we have our gatherings in public buildings such as this auditorium and with such a splendid attendance". Following Navizowski's address, Alderman M. J. Forkin assumed chairmanship and in his remarks enlarged upon Navizowski's remarks regarding the development and growth of the Communist Party which he attributed to the "intensive struggle waged by the Party".

There were, in addition to the local delegates, 60 delegates from outside points, many of whom are said to have been elected to various municipal councils.

Three reports featured the opening session of this convention. Jim Litterick, secretary of the Manitoba District, presented a report on the Party's activity and progress extensively commenting on the need for co-operation, the attitude to other working class organizations and the Party's desire for a much closer co-operation in "the struggle of the working class". He stressed particularly the movement sponsored by the Communist Party for the abolition of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. He also dealt with the "back to the American Federation of Labor Movement" characterizing the liquidation of the Workers Unity League and the absorption of its members by the various A. F. of L. unions as one of the greatest achievements of the Party. The Communist Party,

he said, is closely following the resolutions and decision of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International held in Moscow a year ago.

Bill Ross reported on behalf of the Young Communist League pointing out the issues confronting the Youth Movement. He had much praise for the Youth Council Movement and intimated that it is one of the achievements of the Young Communist League.

Alderman Jacob Penner spoke on the role of the Party in municipal affairs praising the work of the two Communist Aldermen and A. Bilecki, sole Communist member of the Winnipeg School Board. He characterized the Independent Labour Party and its representation in the City Council as weak and non-aggressive. In conclusion he appealed for unity and expressed the hope that labour will have a majority in the City Council following the next municipal election.

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A rather unusual feature of the opening session was the presence of the leaders of the [3-4 words] language mass organizations who, prior to the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code, has expressed reluctance and was somewhat afraid to appear at official Communist Party gatherings for fear that they might jeopardize the legal status of their organizations.

On 26th September a closed session was held attended by 567 delegates, the majority of whom were from Winnipeg. The Winnipeg delegation included representatives of the Communist Party fractions operating within the Winnipeg unemployed organizations, Railway Association, Trades and Labour Council, Meat Packers Union, Dye Works and small craft shops, motion picture projects, Women's Labour League, League Against War and Fascism and the various [1/2 line] language mass organizations. Alderman Jacob Penner acted as chairman and James Litterick as secretary. Reports were submitted by the reporters of the various delegations describing the progress and the problems of the Party in the various spheres. Numerous resolutions were passed covering practically every phase of Communist activity based on the decisions of the Ninth National Plenum of the Communist Party of Canada. Twenty-five delegates were elected to attend the National Convention in Toronto, Ont., but this number was afterwards reduced to 10.

On 26th September the students attending the Higher Educational Course at the Parkdale Institute conducted by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg, Man., presented a drama entitled "Destruction of a Squadron" portraying the sinking of the Black Sea Fleet by the revolutionary

Black Sea sailors on Lenin's orders during the Russian Revolution. The drama is said to have been very well staged and it was well received by the audience.

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