

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 24th March, 1937.

SECRETNO. 849WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Rioting occurred in front of the Coulter Manufacturing Company Plant at Oshawa, Ont., on the evening of the 22nd of March when pickets and strikers stoned employees emerging from the plant. The Company is said to have refused to recognize the United Automobile Workers of America under whose auspices the strike is being conducted.

.....

[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. Split in International labour movement seems inevitable.

C.I.O. to issue charters to affiliated bodies.

Communist organ charges Wm. Green issued orders to expel C.I.O. locals from Trades and Labour councils and urges all unions to resist Green's edict.

" " 2. "Slobodna Misao" campaign great success. Proceeds amount to \$5,137.89.

" " 3. Delegates to Soviet Union appointed.

[~~deletion:1 line~~]

Harry Brown to represent farmers and

[~~deletion:1 line~~]

" " 4. Toronto District Trades and Labour council officially endorses "Daily Clarion" April campaign.

" " 5. "Pravda" campaign successful

- Quota exceeded.
- “ ” 6. Three Canadian volunteers from Spain desert at New York.
 [§deletion:2 lines]
 Peter Zapkar, formerly prominent in Communist movement in Canada, reported killed in action at Madrid.
- “ ” 7. Y.C.L. to hold Communist Student Parliament in Toronto.
- “ ” 8. Waterfront situation in Vancouver remains unchanged.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Conviction of Grange and Molland upheld by Court of Appeal
- “ ” 10. ALBERTA
 Edmonton Unemployed Married Men's Association taking strike vote.
 A.E. Smith speaks at Edmonton.
- “ ” 11. MANITOBA
 Tim Buck draws large audience in Winnipeg; meeting financial success.
 [§deletion:2 lines]
- “ ” 12. ONTARIO
 Toronto Communists prepare for "May Day".
- “ ” 1[§deletion:4 lines]

[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Split in International Labour Movement Seems Inevitable

John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, speaking to 50 newspaper correspondents recently, stated that the Committee for Industrial Organization will immediately start issuing charters to international unions and to state and city central organizations in an endeavour to create a form of structure identical to that of the American Federation of Labor. President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, when informed of Lewis' action, recalled that the Federation's Executive Council a year ago had declared the Committee for Industrial Organization to be a dual organization. That charge, it will be remembered, was vehemently denied at that time

by the Committee for Industrial Organization leaders. Green said he would confer with other American Federation of Labor officials on the Federation's next step in the face of Lewis' action. He made it plain that the American Federation of Labour will fight vigorously against any dual movement but expressed the hope that the C.I.O.-A.F. of L. breach will be healed and the forces of labour united.

Encouraged by a series of organizing successes, the Committee for Industrial Organization is apparently challenging the whole system of old line craft unionism led by the William Green faction. The Communists, the most virile and energetic element behind this move for industrial unionism, vigorously deny any intention on the part of the Committee for Industrial Organization to establish a dual organization and to split the ranks of organized labour. The Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, for 18th March in a lengthy editorial under the caption "Labour Must Not Allow Union Ranks To Be Split" charges that the Green-Woll-Frey group are out to split the ranks of labour; it charges that Green has recently issued a decree ordering the expulsion of Committee for Industrial Organization local unions from Trades and Labour Councils and Provincial Federations. The editorial declares: —

[3]

"It should be noted that the C.I.O. and its affiliates are neither dual unions nor are they responsible for the division which is being created. The C.I.O. consisted of bona fide A.F. of L. unions who banded themselves together for the purpose of helping the workers in unorganized industries to organize themselves into industrial unions within the fold of the A.F. of L. The C.I.O. was thus not weakening the A.F. of L. which numbers only about three million members but sought to build the A.F. of L. by organizing the over thirty million workers who were outside of the trade union movement".

The Clarion reminds the anti-C.I.O. group that it was not the Committee for Industrial Organization that withdrew from the American Federation of Labor but the "die-hards" of the American Federation of Labor who suspended the Committee for Industrial Organization, approximately one-third of the American Federation of Labor membership, from the American Federation of Labor. It places the responsibility for any split that may occur on the shoulders of William Green and his aides. The editorial urges members of the craft unions, as well as members of those unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization, to vigorously oppose Green's edict to expel the Committee for Industrial Organization locals from the Central Councils and Provincial Federations. "The fight for the defense of the Committee for

Industrial Organization unions and for trade union unity is, therefore, also a fight for the defense of the best interests of the bona fide craft unions", it declares. Commenting on the situation in Canada, the editorial says: —

"In Canada the trade union movement is also making rapid strides forward. Both because of the inner economic situation and because of the tremendous influence of the rising trade unionism in the United States we experience in Canada also a growth of the industries which are being organized by C.I.O. affiliates.

"This historical beginning in our country must not be endangered or checked by division in the ranks of the labor movement. In the face of ruthless opposition of the metal mining barons, the steel magnates, the automobile tsars and the textile monopolists, the Canadian trade union and labor political movement must seek the highest degree of unity and must strenuously oppose and completely defeat any attempt to divide the ranks of labor.

"As against the combination of reactionary forces in our country led by the Bennetts, the Holts, the Financial Post, the Globe and Mail, etc., we must forge an invincible, unified labor movement that will defeat all its enemies and will organize a million workers into the trade unions and thus create a mighty instrument for the defense of the workingman, his family and the majority of the Canadian people".

[4]

2. "Slobodna Misao" Campaign Great Success

Slobodna Misao (Free Thought), Communist organ published in the Croatian language at Toronto, Ont., for 11th March contains a statement embodying the final result of the recent subscription campaign conducted on behalf of this paper. The statement jubilantly declares that in six weeks \$5,137.89 had been collected of which \$3,103.64 had been taken in in the form of cash donations and the balance of the money for 334 new yearly and 47 half-yearly subscriptions. Schumacher (Ont.) attained first place with a cash donation of \$611.00 and 80 new subscribers: Vancouver (B.C.) came second in the campaign with \$338.00 cash donation and some 60 subscriptions: Kirkland Lake (Ont.) contributed \$341.00 and 35 new subscribers. The statement further declares that the result of the campaign exceeded all expectations, illustrating the attitude of the Croatian people in Canada towards the paper is becoming more favourable and that the Croatian masses are steadily turning to the "left" and away from the nationalist policies advocated by the "rightist" element. It is further stated that as a result of this campaign the regular appearance of Slobodna Misao is now assured for the coming year and that as far as the

organization is concerned it has emerged from the campaign stronger than ever.

3. Delegates to Soviet Union Appointed

[~~deletion: 1/4 page~~]

[5]

[~~deletion: 3-4 lines~~]

Harry W. Brown, a prominent member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in the Fraser Valley, B.C., has been chosen to represent the farmers on the delegation. His selection has been sponsored by the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs in the Fraser Valley who will also raise the necessary funds to defray his expenses connected with the trip. His selection has the endorsement of the Friends of the Soviet Union Committee at Vancouver.

[~~deletion: 2 1/4 lines~~]

The only woman representative on the delegation is Mrs. Elizabeth Kerr of Vancouver, a prominent member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The fifth member of the party has not yet been selected. In all probability he will be a building trades representative from Alberta.

4. Toronto District Trades and Labour Council Officially Endorses "Daily Clarion" April Campaign

The Toronto District Trades and Labour Council at its regular meeting on 18th March unanimously endorsed the Daily Clarion sustaining fund campaign which is to commence on 1st April. The Trades and Labour Council, representing some 35,000 local unionists, voted a \$5.00 donation and called upon all affiliated unions to give their support. The decision was made on the recommendation of the executive and the secretary, J. W. Buckley, was instructed to write all affiliated organizations advising them of the Council's decision and asking them to back the paper's campaign.

The action of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council in this regard reflects the ever growing influence of the Communist

[6]

Party in the organized forces of labour in the City of Toronto, Ont. It illustrates that the Communists have considerable influence in this central body of organized labour if not completely in control thereof.

5. "Pravda" Campaign Successful

The campaign recently waged on behalf of Pravda (The Truth) organ of the Serbian Communists published at Toronto, Ont., has been more than successful, it is announced in the 12th March edition of this paper. The objective was a sustaining fund of \$500.00; a total of \$800.00 was raised, thus exceeding the original quota by \$300.00. It is pointed out that the Croatian comrades, particularly in Vancouver (B.C.) and Kirkland Lake (Ont.), were very active in the campaign.

6. Three Canadian Volunteers for Spain Desert at New York, N.Y.

Three Canadian volunteers en route to Spain are reported to have deserted at New York; they include [§deletion:1/2 line] and [§deletion:1/2 line]

[§deletion:1/3 page]

[7]

[§deletion:2 1/2 lines]

Peter Zapkar, a prominent Yugoslavian Communist and former editor of the Communist organ Borba who was deported from Canada in December, 1934 after having served one year at the Fort William Industrial Farm as a result of the part he played in an unlawful assembly at Fort Frances (Ont.) on 1st December, 1933, has been reported killed in action while fighting on the side of the Loyalist forces in Madrid. Although ordered deported to Yugoslavia, Zapkar somehow managed to find his way to the Soviet Union where he eventually enlisted for service with the Loyalist forces in Spain. The Communist organ Daily Clarion for 19th March, 1937, contains the following obituary: —

"The fascist hordes have not taken Madrid. At this moment they are in retreat. By supreme heroism the Spanish people are beating back the invader. And among those who laid down their lives that fascism shall not pass is Peter Zepkar, Canadian.

"Lower the banners. Play taps. A soldier for democracy, one of our own, met a hero's death in the battle of Madrid.

"He came as a young peasant lad from far-away Croatia to our new country. He labored in our industries. He became a Canadian workman and in the fire of the experiences of the class struggle in Canada he became a Communist, joining the ranks of Tim Buck's party.

"And the vicious Bennett regime arrested this worker for the crime of striking for union rights and better conditions and shipped him away from Canada....

"Honor to our dead. Democratic Canada pays tribute to Peter Zepkar. Democratic Canada, despite our government's position, is fighting with democratic Spain to secure peace, freedom and happiness for our peoples".

7. Y.C.L. to Hold Communist Student Parliament in Toronto, Ont.

The Young Communist League is calling a Student Conference which will take place in Toronto, Ont., on 27th and 28th march; it will take the form of a Communist Student Parliament. According to

[8]

a circular issued by the Student Committee of the Young Communist League, "this Parliament will meet to discuss such important questions as the Young Communist League student programme which will be a programme for peace and a better education for students, the building of the Young Communist League among high school students and the forms and the activities of the student branches of the Young Communist League". The Parliament will convene at 441 Queen Street, West.

8. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver, B.C., Remains Unchanged

The situation on Vancouver's waterfront remains unsettled. Alderman R. P. Pettipiece, chairman of the Vancouver City Council Social Service Committee and at one time vice-president of the Trades and Labour Council of that city, announced on 13th March last, following a meeting between the City Council and the British Columbia Shipping Federation held in private on 12th March, that he would ask the City Council to petition the Dominion Government to set up a Royal Commission to probe the longshore situation in the Port of Vancouver. He contended that, because the Shipping Federation refuses to employ members of the local union of the International Longshoremen's Association, Vancouver is losing substantial business with steamship lines that

have agreements with the International Longshoremen's Association in the United States or with foreign unions affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Association.

.....

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. Conviction of Grange and Molland Upheld by Court of Appeal

Fred Grange and R. H. Molland of Vancouver, who were convicted in the Vancouver Assize Court on 16th November and sentenced to two years in the British Columbia Penitentiary for their part in the riot at Hamilton Hall, Vancouver, on 14th October last, have been refused leave to appeal against their convictions by the Court of Appeal at Vancouver on 11th March. They were arrested on 13th March and conveyed to the B.C. Penitentiary.

II. ALBERTA

10. Edmonton Unemployed Married Men's Association Taking Strike Vote

The Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton held their regular weekly meeting in the New Haddon Hall on 13th March with approximately 250 in attendance. It was decided that registration of the Unemployed Married Men's Association strike vote start on 15th March and continue for two weeks.

The strike vote is based upon the following demands: —

- (1) Fifteen per cent increase of food vouchers to help meet the increased cost of living.
- (2) The restoration of former relief allowances of all large families affected by the \$80.00 maximum as has already been done in the case of ex-service men.
- (3) The withdrawal of or adjustment of Clauses 9, 10, 12 and 13 of the Affidavit to coincide with Trade Union principles of work and wages and the workers' right of collective bargaining.
- (4) That the clothing department be abolished and that cash or voucher be granted as follows: \$2.00 per

month for each adult, \$1.00 for each child under 13 years of age.

(5) That the following rent be allowed: Man and wife, \$10.00 per month; man and wife and one or two children under school age, \$12.00; man and wife and two or more children of school age, \$15.00; light, water and fuel in sufficient quantities.

[10]

(6) \$1.00 Extra to anyone receiving a work card so that he will be able to buy necessary food and not deprive his wife and children while he is working.

The question shown on the ballot is: "Are you in favour of an unemployed strike for the above urgent needs of unemployed men, women and children?"

The Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Association are said to have refused to co-operate with the Unemployed Married Men's Association and are insisting upon negotiating direct with the City Council without the aid of the Unemployed Married Men's Association.

A. E. Smith, national secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, was the principal speaker at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Edmonton branch of the League in the Empire Theatre at Edmonton on 14th March. Approximately 1,000 persons attended with William Irvine, ex-M.P., acting as chairman. At the commencement of the meeting the people present were asked to stand and observe one minute's silence in memory of John O'Sullivan, Communist Party leader of Calgary, who died recently. Short speeches were also given by the local secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, S.A.G. Barnes, Harold Gerry, Mrs. Jean Mason, Mrs. A. E. Dunn and a Mr. Ross.

A. E. Smith dealt with the European crisis, making particular reference to the Spanish Civil War. He asserted that since October last the Canadian Labour Defence League had been sending \$2,000.00 per month to Spain to assist the Medical Unit headed by Dr. Norman Bethune of Montreal. He said that many Canadian volunteers are now fighting on the side of the Loyalist forces in Spain and "a lot more are on their way to Spain now". He remarked that the Fascists of France, Great Britain and Italy did not wish to see General Franco defeated because "this would mean a Soviet Union in Spain and later on a Soviet in France and eventually a Soviet in Great Britain". Smith claimed that "it won't be very long before the workers are in power in Canada".

A collection for the Medical Unit in Madrid netted the sum of \$50.00.

[11]

III. MANITOBA

11. Tim Buck Draws Large Audience in Winnipeg, Man.

Tim Buck was the principal speaker at a mass meeting held by the Communist Party in the Civic Auditorium at Winnipeg on 12th March. Approximately 3,000 people attended, a capacity audience. Prices charged for admission were 10¢, 15¢, and 25¢, respectively. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Mandolin Orchestra entertained the audience prior to the opening of the meeting; Annie Buller, recently transferred to Winnipeg, acted as chairman.

Tim Buck was preceded by J. Litterick who presented a four-point programme on which he thought the progressive Members of the Manitoba Legislature could co-operate and on the strength of which a People's Government might be elected. The programme elucidated by Litterick included: —

- (1) Reducing Manitoba's debt and cutting interest rates on bond issues.
- (2) Assistance to Manitoba farmers, building of bridges, roads and lessening the grip of mortgage companies on the farmers.
- (3) A public works scheme to increase employment.
- (4) Social and Labour Legislation.

Tim Buck spoke briefly on Spain outlining several incidents of "heroism" he had personally witnessed while in Spain. He made particular reference to the 5th Regiment [~~deletion: 1 word~~] and his meeting with General John Kleber and an Italian deported from the U.S.A. who held an important position in the Loyalist forces. Buck spoke for an hour and a half on "What Lies Ahead" in the Province of Manitoba. It was a United Front propaganda talk based upon the decisions of the XIth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

The proceeds of this meeting amounted to \$460.00, leaving a net profit of \$160.00.

[12]

[~~deletion: 1/3 page~~]

IV. ONTARIO12. Toronto Communists Prepare for "May Day"

Efforts are on foot to make the 1937 May Day celebration in the City of Toronto the greatest in the history of that city. The May Day Conference, a body representative of various organizations, principally those under Communist influence or control, which has been formed some time ago, has met on several occasions to make the necessary preparations in connection with the event. Plans under consideration call for a parade during the afternoon and a mass meeting in the Maple Leaf Gardens in the course of the evening. John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, is to be approached with a view to lending his services as guest speaker at the Maple Leaf Gardens meeting; failing to secure him for the occasion the Administration Committee is considering sending an invitation to Sir Stafford Cripps. The May Day Conference is said to have the moral support of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council.

V. QUEBEC

[~~deletion:4 lines~~]

[13]

[~~deletion:1 page~~]