
 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 28th April, 1937.

SECRETNO. 853WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Arrangements for the celebration of May Day are under way in many centres throughout Canada. Parades and meetings are expected to exceed previous records. However, no disturbances of any consequence are anticipated.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Oshawa G.M.C. Strike Settled

The General Motors strike at Oshawa, Ont., after having been in progress for 16 days, was formally ended when company and employees' representatives signed an agreement in the office of Premier Hepburn at Toronto at 3.10 p.m. on 23rd April. The agreement is made concurrent with the agreement between General Motors Corporation in the United States and the United Automobile Workers of America, dated 11th February, 1937, which runs indefinitely or may be modified or terminated after 11th August.

The agreement was signed by H. J. Carmichael and James B. Highfield, vice-president and general manager of General Motors of Canada, Limited, respectively, and C. H. Millard, president of Local 222 and a paid organiser of the United Automobile Workers of America, George H. Day, chairman of their Negotiations Committee, and E. E. Bathe, committee member, who signed "on behalf of themselves and their successors in office representing the employees of the company who are members of the local union".

Although the agreement does not specifically mention the United Automobile Workers of America or its representatives as one of the contracting parties, it is generally held by leaders of the union and Communists in particular that it entails union recognition—the main cause of the strike. C. H. Millard, chief

signatory for the employees involved in the strike, now no longer an employee of General Motors but a full time organiser of the union, a C.I.O. affiliate, commenting on the agreement is said to have declared. "The agreement is with the local union. I know and the world knows the union has been recognised. All this business of trying to avoid saying so in so many words is just child's play". J. L. Cohen, attorney for the United Automobile Workers of America, expressed himself to like effect. He said the agreement is so worded and interpretation is so placed that there would be no doubt about the recognition.

Most outspoken in the dispute over the question of whether or not the agreement signed entails recognition of the union, is the

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Communist press. The Daily Clarion of 24th April, in a front page editorial captioned "Bravo, Oshawa! Your Victory Inspires Labor Everywhere" declares:

"Hats off to the members of local 222, United Automobile Workers of America! They have won their strike after two weeks of battle with the giant G.M.C. Their union is recognised. They have won wage increases. Their shop committees will be on the job to make sure G.M.C. does not pull the old trick of taking away concessions piecemeal once the workers go back to the plants. They have won a shorter working day. They have won their seniority rights. They have won five-minute respites from the killing pace of the assembly line. They have clipped the surplus profits of the General Motors corporation.

"THEY HAVE WON THEIR STRIKE! LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT! LET THE GLOBE AND MAIL, THE TORONTO TELEGRAM, PREMIER HEPBURN AND THE BIG SHOTS OF ONTARIO UNDERSTAND THAT.

"Hepburn and his backers tried to distort the simple issue of U.W.A. recognition by every conceivable means of misrepresentation. But he has failed! The Oshawa strikers take their places with the Tolpuddle martyrs, with workers everywhere who have been pioneers in the great crusade for labor's inalienable rights.

"I have nothing to say", said Hepburn after the agreement was signed.

"But the people of Ontario will have plenty to say!

"They will repudiate him and his ilk, shameless turncoats who ran to protect the mining, auto, rubber and textile despoilers of our province, casting their erstwhile 'principles' to the winds.

"All Hepburn's threats of violence, all his bombastic intimidation, all his unprincipled efforts to split the strikers' ranks, have broken on the rock of union solidarity backed by the progressive will of the people of Ontario.

"Lines have been drawn more clearly as a result of this strike. The yellow press has stripped itself to its venal heart.

"The friends of the people are known.

"Oshawa marks the victorious beginning of a new era in Ontario, the era of unionized, progressive, indomitable labor. May Day's demonstration will carry us nearer that goal!"

2. The Montreal Dressmakers Strike

Approximately 2,000 of the 5,000 clothing workers who came out on strike on 15th April are reported to be back at work in plants operated by members of the new organisation called the Montreal Dress Manufacturers Association with whom agreements have been

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signed by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The majority of the members of the Montreal Manufacturers Guild refused to sign the agreement upon which union demands are based. The strike continues.

3. Communists and the Canadian Youth Congress

Development of a mass movement of the youth is one of the primary objectives of the Communists in their manoeuvre to create a United Front in Canada against war and Fascism. That the Communists have selected the Canadian Youth Congress as the means by which they hope to attain this objective cannot be disputed. It is for this reason that Communist efforts for the moment are bent upon making the forthcoming (Second) Convention of the Canadian Youth Congress, which is to convene in Montreal, Que., on 22nd May, a success. The National Office of the Young Communist League at Toronto is now issuing a weekly bulletin on the preparations for the Canadian Youth Congress. This bulletin, the first edition of which appeared on 13th April, deals with the preparations based on the reports received from the Young Communist League contacts throughout the country. A perusal of its contents reveals that the Communists are taking a leading part in these preparations in most centres of Canada.

[~~deletion:2 3/4 lines~~] shows that the question of work among the youth, and the Canadian Youth Congress in particular, receives primary attention by the Communist Party. This conference passed a resolution entitled "Towards a Mass Labour and Progressive Youth Movement in Southern Ontario". The resolution expresses the national policy of the Communist Party

of Canada. "The Party", the resolution declares, "is the leader of the common people.....and as such is the organiser and leader of the youth". It asserts: "The Young Communist League must become the best assistant of the Party in educating and training large members of youth". Emphasizing that "leading the youth in their struggles must become part and parcel of the life of the party" and that "all tendencies

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to shift responsibility from the Party itself must be combatted as negligence of a decisive phase of our work", the resolution outlines a number of concrete tasks before the party in extending its work among youth, some of which are as follows:

"1. (a) To give full support to the YCL and the youth movement generally in the preparations for the 2nd National Youth Congress so that a minimum of 500 youth delegates can be elected to attend the Congress in Montreal to guarantee this. Each Section Committee to aid in the election of mass delegations of youth to the Congress as part of the campaign to popularise the Canadian Youth Act and the Declaration of Rights.

(b) Steps to be taken immediately in every city and town in Southern Ontario to ensure the election of youth delegates from the trade unions, unemployed and part time workers associations.

(c) Each Section Committee to assist in the building of councils in each ward and locality where none exist and to give all possible assistance in strengthening the councils that do exist.

(d) In line with the provisions of the Canadian Youth Act, the party should aid in working out legislation on youth issues for the Provincial Legislature and definite proposals (opening of municipal youth recreation centres, vocational training, enforcement of minimum wage laws, etc.) to municipal and public bodies on issues affecting the youth of each locality. (The campaign initiated by the party for youth recreation needs in Ward 5, Toronto, on Alderman Smith's motions is a concrete example.)

"2. We must initiate a wide public campaign for a minimum wage law for male youth under 19 years of age. Issuance of leaflets, organising of meetings and open hearings on wages to male youth, etc., in the name of the party in all localities. Aid to be given to the YCL in working out its participation in this campaign —assistance in issuing leaflets and in organising of meetings, etc. Definite concentration on sweat-shops with low paid young workers to give this campaign local significance connecting this up with the drive for unionization and involving public minded organisations and individuals in this campaign.

"3. The party to co-operate with the YCL in undertaking a campaign to open youth centres in every possible locality, where the lack of such facilities is retarding the more rapid development of the youth movement".

Communist spokesmen are confident that the forthcoming Youth Congress will be attended by at least 1,000 delegates and that it will serve to extend the youth movement. Needless to say that among the delegates elected to the congress will be a large number of Communists, some of whom will attend as representatives of the

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Young Communist League and Communist youth organisations and others in the disguise of delegates representing labour unions and other youth organisations.

4. May Day, 1937

A special effort is being made by the Communists throughout Canada to make May Day — "labour's day of international solidarity" — this year a real success, a day of "protest against Capitalist enslavement and exploitation", the biggest in the history of Canada. "Make this a year of labour victories", reads the heading of the May Day manifesto issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada over the signature of Tim Buck, general secretary of the Party. Every endeavour has been made to enlist the support of labour unions and have them participate in the May Day demonstrations scheduled for 1st May. "Down tools on May Day! Let the whole Dominion ring with the thunder of marching feet as the workers of Canada demonstrate for peace and democracy on 1st May", says the Communist Party manifesto. Particular reference is made in the manifesto to the question of world's peace and support of the cause of "Spanish democracy". It urges the "common people" to make May Day the starting point for renewed and stronger efforts so that "from the past year of progress we may march forward to ever greater victories in the year ahead".

Toronto's celebration of May Day for 1937 will feature speeches by Father Michael O'Flanagan, former vice-president of the Irish Free State, Anna Louise Strong, famous Communist writer and propagandist, and Sam Lawrence, member of the Ontario Legislature. The Communist press predicts that 25,000 people will participate in this year's May Day celebration at Toronto.

5. Campaign in Aid of Spain

Ten volunteers are said to have left Vancouver, B.C., for Spain under the leadership of [deletion:2 words] on the night of 20th April. [deletion:1 line]

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Dr. Anna Louise Strong, associate editor of the Moscow Daily News and a prominent Communist propagandist, addressed a series of meetings recently in Western Canada on behalf of the Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

On 11th April she spoke to approximately 1,600 persons in the Empire Theatre at Edmonton, Alta. The collection taken netted approximately \$500. On the previous night she spoke at a banquet given in her honour by the Edmonton Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy at the Royal George Hotel with about 100 persons in attendance including leaders of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Canadian Labour Party, trade unions, and the Communist Party of Canada.

On 12th April she addressed a meeting attended by approximately 800 people in the Legion Hall at Saskatoon, Sask., under the auspices of the Saskatoon Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy, the collection taken at this meeting yielded \$113.

On 18th April Dr. Anna Louise Strong addressed a capacity audience in the Walker Theatre at Winnipeg, Man., also held under the auspices of the local Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy. Some 20 or 30 leaders of the local movement were seated on the stage with the Honourable E. J. McMurray acting as chairman. Her speech was a repetition of the ones given on previous occasions, stressing and defending the cause of the Spanish Loyalists. The collection realized \$450, it was announced by the chairman of the meeting.

6. Annie Buller in Saskatchewan

Annie Buller, recently transferred from Toronto to Winnipeg to take charge of Communist Party work among women, has toured Saskatchewan recently addressing meetings in the interest of the Daily Clarion drive now in progress throughout Canada. Some of the meetings were poorly attended, it is said.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA7. E. Baker Nominated C.P. of C. Candidate for
New Westminster

Reverend E. Baker, who resigned from the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation some time ago to join the Communist Party of Canada, has been nominated as Communist Party standard bearer for New Westminster in the coming British Columbia Provincial election. Baker has consistently championed the United Front programme of the Communist Party among the Fraser Valley farmers. Asked how, as a former Minister, he could reconcile his beliefs with Communism, Baker stated "The doctrines of social ownership stand much closer to the precepts and teachings of Christ than the doctrines of Canada's 50 big shots. Church people have nothing to fear from Communism". Questioned on his attitude to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation since his resignation, Baker stated his allegiance to the rank and file was unshaken. "I want to see and help them built the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation into an all inclusive federation", he asserted. "Those who stand in the way of this are opposing the true interests of the farmers and workers of this province".

Maurice Rush, provincial secretary of the Young Communist League in British Columbia, has been selected to attend the Canadian Youth Congress, which is to open in Montreal, Que., on 22nd May, to represent the Young Communist League of Vancouver.

II. MANITOBA8. Winnipeg Unemployed Leaders Sentenced

The following leaders of the Single Men's Unemployed Association of Winnipeg, who took an active part in a disturbance last summer, appeared before Judge J. G. Cory in Provincial Court at Winnipeg on 16th April for sentence. They were sentenced as follows:—

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W. McNeil _____	Six months (one charge).
M. McDonald _____	Six months, and two years suspended sentence on second count.
J. Ramsay _____	Three months and two years sus-

S. O. Doyle _____	pended sentence (two charges). Six months (one charge).
D. Grainger _____	Two years suspended sentence (one charge).
A. Webster alias L. Ford _____	Two years suspended sentence (one charge).

McDonald, Doyle and Ramsay were convicted on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly on 12th July, 1936; McNeil, Grainger, Ramsay, A. Webster and McDonald were convicted on 15th October, 1936, on a charge of unlawful assembly. The Judge, in passing sentence, stated that regardless of the justice or injustice of Relief Commissions' instructions, law and order had to be maintained to protect the tax-payers and citizens generally; further, that rioting was a most serious offence. Local Communist leaders were surprised at the sentences imposed as it was fully expected the cases would be dismissed. [✂deletion:1 line]

A number of relief recipients at Winnipeg came out on strike recently in protest against the action of the Relief Committee in forcing some of the relief recipients to work off their relief at street cleaning. The Manitoba Conference of Unemployed held a mass meeting in the Market Square on the night of 19th April in support of the strikers and in protest against the action of the Relief Committee. About 1,300 people were in attendance and the speakers were J. Clancy, Mitchie Sago and G. Nichols. A resolution "condemning the action of the Relief Committee in placing relief recipients to work without receiving the regular standard of wages" was passed by the meeting.

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