

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 16th June, 1937.

SECRETNO. 860WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Aid to Spain will henceforth be largely concentrated on the maintenance of children's homes in Spain, it was decided by the Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy meeting in conference at Toronto, Ont., on 15th June. The conference pledged itself to undertake the maintenance of some 500 Spanish (Loyalists) children. Maintenance of the Blood Transfusion Unit inaugurated by Dr. Norman Bethune is to be of secondary consideration. It would appear that maintenance of the Ambulance Service and other assistance to the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion henceforth will be a straight Communist Party matter.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Y.C.L. of Canada Hold National Conference in Montreal

The Young Communist League of Canada held a National Conference in Montreal, Que., on 26th and 27th May with delegates from all sections of Canada in attendance. The conference met upon conclusion of the Youth Congress of Canada and one of the main items on its agenda was a report on the significance and achievements of the Second Canadian Youth Congress. This report was delivered by [~~1 word~~] who dwelt at length on the seven proposals submitted to the Youth Congress by the French Canadian youth organisations as a basis for their participation in the congress. All the seven points were acceptable to the Y.C.L., [~~1 word~~] stated, not

only because the Y.C.L. desired to achieve unity within the congress movement but also because the conditions were not contrary to the Y.C.L. programme. The main thing to remember, [deletion: 1 word] declared, was that the Y.C.L. interprets the congress' decisions to suit the Y.C.L. programme and work, and not in the light of the interpretation placed upon them by the French Canadian delegates attending. The congress was a complete success from many angles and showed lack of unity within the Catholic (French) organisations in their attempt to counteract Communist influence, [deletion: 1 word] declared. Every move, he said, to expel the Y.C.L. from the congress had been successfully checked and the Y.C.L. had emerged from the congress stronger than ever with its prestige strengthened in the eyes of the vast majority of the delegates. As a result, [deletion: 1 word] said, the Y.C.L. is now considered as a legitimate youth organisation — "one of the gang" — by the other youth groups, and this provides greater possibilities for further work in building the Y.C.L. The influence of the Y.C.L. in the youth movement was enormous compared to its membership, [deletion: 1 word] said, and if the Y.C.L. is to continue to direct and consolidate the youth movement it will have to initiate a drive for new members and increase its numerical strength.

A report on the Spanish situation urged greater efforts in raising funds and the setting up of a broad youth committee which is to include church and Y.M.C.A. groups to carry on the work. The conference, after considerable discussion, resolved:—

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- (1) To launch a broad agitational campaign to enhance the popularity of the league gained as the result of its work in the Youth Congress.
- (2) To actively participate in trade union activity.
- (3) To extend the campaign in aid of Spain — the establishment of a broad representative Youth Committee — and the issuance of literature appealing to the Catholic youth to help the Catholic youth of Spain.
- (4) To actively participate in the unemployment movement for the reinstatement of single unemployed on relief and increased allowances for unemployed girls and young men.
- (5) To introduce into the league such activities as sports, study groups, dramatics together with socialist education.
- (6) To begin preparations for the Papineau centenary celebration next December "in order to carry forward the great traditions of Papineau in Quebec".

In addition to accredited Y.C.L. delegates from the various districts throughout Canada, the conference was also attended by T. C. Sims, representing the National Committee of the Communist Party of Canada and Stanley Ryerson and Fred Rose of the Quebec District Bureau of the Communist Party.

Immediately following the conference the National Committee of the league met and discussed the question of the Y.C.L. leadership. T. C. Sims suggested that the question of leadership be deferred until William Kashtan, national secretary of the league, returns from his visit to Europe. He suggested the following distribution of work until Kashtan returns: acting national secretary, [deletion:1 word] Youth Congress work, [deletion:1 word] Spanish work, [deletion:1 word] girls' work, [deletion:1 word] Southern Ontario, [deletion:1 word]

[deletion:1 word] was detailed to work in Montreal during the month of June. It was also agreed to raise \$200 for the immediate issuance of three pamphlets in the French language dealing with the question of what the Y.C.L. stands for; \$120 to be raised in Southern Ontario and \$80 in Quebec.

2. Communist International Instructs All Affiliated Sections
to Send Youth Representations to Attend "Youth Peace
Week" at International Exposition in Paris, France

William Kashtan, who returned to Toronto on 3rd June via New York from Spain, has made the following proposals to the Young Communist League leadership:—

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- (a) That 18th July, first anniversary of the outbreak of Civil War in Spain, be used as a day for mass propaganda on behalf of the Spanish-Valencia Government; that on this day meetings, picnics, etc., be organised to raise funds for Spain and to popularise the cause of the Valencia Gov't.
- (b) That the Y.C.L. urge upon the Youth Congress of Canada to endorse the sending of 10 Canadian youth to the Youth Peace Week at the Paris (France) International Exposition; further, that an investigation be made through all steamship companies to determine what young Canadians were visiting Europe at this time and to approach such people with a view to having them visit Paris during the week in question. The Comintern, Kashtan declared, demands that all sections of the Communist movement take measures to

ensure that young people from all lands will visit Paris during the first week in August and to take part in the Peace Week.

3. Idea of Independent Political Action Sponsored by C.P. Assumes Shape in Toronto, Ont.

The Enlarged District Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada for Southern Ontario met in Toronto, Ont., on 20th and 21st May to consider the attitude of the C.P. towards the policy of the Hepburn Government as recently announced. Stewart Smith delivered the main report saying the time was ripe for the building of a Farmer-Labour party in Ontario. This, he declared, must become the main task of all Communists in answer to the two main political parties. He suggested striving for local labour action in all municipalities and cities and developing it gradually into a wider movement to cover the whole province. This step, he said, was necessary as many of the leaders of the American Federation of Labor unions were reluctant to endorse political action on a province-wide scale. In Toronto, for the moment, the main problem appears to be to give labour representation in the civic administration, he declared.

Thus, in conformity with this policy, the Communist Party, by virtue of its predominating influence in the Toronto and District Trades and Labour Council, was able to swing that central body of organised labour in favour of political action. The Toronto and District Trades and Labour Council, at its regular meeting on the night of 3rd June by an overwhelming majority, endorsed a report presented by E.E. Woollon on behalf of the Special Committee on Labour Representation, which read:—

“Your committee begs to report that in accord with your instructions it has met to consider the best and most effective means to procure labor representation, and has come to the conclusion, after exhaustive discussion on this subject, that the days of resolutions and deputations as representations of labor are past, that the future of the trade union movement

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depends now, upon its ability to elect or cause to be elected, tried and true representatives, to personally direct from public office, the viewpoint of labor, with due consideration to its responsibilities to its members, and the constitution of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council.

“Your committee therefore recommends, that the council authorize the establishment of an association for this purpose, and for which we recommend the name of ‘Labor Representation Association’ whose function it

shall be, to set up the necessary machinery for financing, and conducting the election of candidates, duly approved by all sections represented in the Labor Representation Association.

"Your committee recommends that the council empower the committee to circularize all affiliated trade unions, and progressive groups, in the name of the council, to appoint delegates to meet with delegates from this council, and the committee already appointed, for the purpose of establishing a common basis of understanding, and a minimum program in defense of trade union rights and privileges.

"We further recommend the enlargement of the committee, to provide for such sub-committees as can adequately fashion its constitution and laws so as not to conflict with the aims and objects of the international trade union movement. To set up a system of organisation and general management of an association as will ensure the utmost in labor representation in the administration of our municipal affairs.

"Your committee is of the opinion that until such time as the association is developed into such strength as to consider the provincial and federal offices of government, our entire attention should be directed to the coming municipal elections".

A conference of all trade unions affiliated to the Toronto and District Trades and Labour Council will be called in the near future by the council's Special Committee on Labour Representation, it was announced on 11th June by Mrs. Jean Laing, secretary of the committee.

4. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

A crowd of over 2,000 men and women gathered at the corner of Bay and Fleet Sts., Toronto, Ont., on the evening of 14th June to welcome Dr. Norman Bethune back to Canada. Upon his arrival (by motor car from Buffalo, N.Y.) at the designated point, Dr. Bethune was escorted into an open touring car and, accompanied by James Conner and Stewart Smith, Communist Alderman, headed a parade over half a mile long to the grounds of Queen's Park where at least 2,000 people awaited the arrival of the procession and where an open air meeting was held with Dr. Bethune as the principal speaker. George Watson, recently elected president of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, who acted as chairman, took the occasion to tell the Governments of Quebec and Ontario that "labour will

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fight for democracy, will not be dictated to in its organisation and will defend to the last ditch its right to organise with the groups of its choice".

Louis Palermo, Italian anti-Fascist leader, greeted the doctor in the name of all anti-Fascist Italians and fiercely attacked everything connected with Fascism; he called for the day when Fascism in Spain and Italy would be forever destroyed.

Stewart Smith eulogised Dr. Bethune's efforts as head of the Canadian Blood Transfusion Unit in Spain and Mrs. Elizabeth Morton (Communist), speaking for the women of Canada, thanked the doctor for his loyalty to the Spanish soldiers and upheld his action in "saving Canada's good name".

Paul Siren, member of the Young Communist League, was also profuse in his thanks to Dr. Bethune for his work in Spain and produced a cheque for \$50 presented by the Youth Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy with which he is associated.

Dr. Bethune, in a short speech, told the gathering that though the Rebel forces are now storming the City of Bilbao the Loyalist army will triumph and will eventually drive Fascism out of Spain. The Government, he said, will be victorious but he warned that a common front must not be unique to Spain but must be formed in Canada, in the United States and wherever democracy would be preserved. Only a united front, he said, can fight Fascism.

It is estimated that approximately 5,000 persons attended the meeting.

The local Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy at Winnipeg, Man., held two meetings, one in the afternoon and the other in the course of the evening at the Marlborough Hotel on 12th June. The afternoon session was addressed by Marshal J. Gauvin and Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton was the principal speaker of the evening. Ex-Judge L. St. G. Stubbs presided on both occasions. Both sessions were attended by approximately 100 delegates and visitors representing 51 different organisations throughout the city. The speakers urged continued support for the Loyalists of Spain. Resolutions were passed urging the Canadian Government to take a more definite stand in the League of Nations in regard to the Spanish affair.

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On the morning of 13th June the Ukrainian Labour Temple was the scene of a well attended mass rally staged to commemorate the death of those Canadian volunteers who lost their lives fighting against the Fascists on the Madrid front. The affair, quite an impressive one, was exclusively Ukrainian, staged under the auspices of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

The Polish People's Association, Winnipeg (Man.) branch, held a meeting in aid of Spain at the Polish Temple, 215 Selkirk Avenue, on 7th June. The meeting was addressed by ex-Judge L. St. G. Stubbs and A. Morski. Ex-Judge Stubbs briefly dwelt upon Polish history comparing it with that of Spain. Referring to the Spanish conflict, he declared Spain is the battle ground for world democracy. He asserted that there are now 1,000 Canadians in Spain in the International Brigade including 30 Polish workers from Canada. Stubbs further stated that 3,000 Poles are fighting in Spain organised into a separate Polish Battalion. He branded the British Government as pro-Fascist and urged that general support be given to the Loyalists in Spain.

A. Morski spoke for one hour and twenty minutes reviewing and eulogising the cause of the Spanish Loyalists.

The collection taken at this meeting netted \$49.50 which, together with special donations made by the two local branches of the Polish People's Association, brought the total of the money collected by these organisations for this particular cause to \$72.25.

5. Notes on C.I.O. Activities

The Committee for Industrial Organisation is at present engaged in the greatest steel strike in the history of the U.S.A. involving approximately 100,000 steel workers and miners in seven of the States of the Union.

Fifteen thousand machinists from 14 lodges throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Eastern Pennsylvania have recently severed all connections with the International Association of Machinists, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, and decided to affiliate

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with the Committee for Industrial Organisation. It is understood that similar action is pending throughout the middle West and West coast.

John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organisation, announced recently that the C.I.O. would begin immediately a drive to unionize approximately 60,000 workers in the aeroplane industry. The campaign will be conducted by the United Automobile Workers' Union, it is said.

Denouncing the American Federation of Labor executive council as "a tool of the employers to set workers against workers", the leadership of the American Newspaper Guild at St. Louis, Mo., on 8th June laid before the opening session of the Fourth Annual Convention of the Guild the proposal to affiliate with the Committee for Industrial Organisation. Voting on the motion passed the resolution for affiliation by overwhelming majority.

Two important conventions — the Pacific Maritime Federation and the Woodworkers Federation — opened in Portland, Ore., on 9th June. Affiliation with the Committee for Industrial Organisation is the paramount issue before both conventions. The Woodworkers Federation, which is said to embrace 100,000 lumber and sawmill workers, is a part of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, one of the largest A.F. of L. unions. It is anticipated that both conventions will endorse the C.I.O., at least there seems little doubt that the Maritime Federation will vote to affiliate with the C.I.O. This was already indicated in a conference held between Harry Bridges and John L. Lewis at Washington where a plan was agreed upon for a National Maritime Federation.

An early start is to be made on the organisation of the rubber workers of Quebec and later complete organisation of the Canadian industry from coast to coast will be undertaken by the United Rubber Workers of America, an affiliate of the C.I.O., it was announced by the union's international vice-president, S. H. Dalrymple at Kitchener, Ont., recently.

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Meyer Klig, prominent Communist Party leader at Toronto, Ont., has been appointed general organiser of the Fur Workers' International Union, according to advice reaching Toronto from the union's Executive Board recently. He is one of the six who have been named by the Executive Board in preparation for a drive to organise the unorganised in the fur industry. The union, at its convention held in Chicago, Ill., recently, decided to affiliate with the Committee for Industrial Organisation.

6. Strikes and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

(A) Coal Miners Strike in Pictou Country, N.S.

The strike of 1,100 miners at the four Acadia Coal Company mines at Stellarton and No. 3 shaft at Thorburn which commenced on 31st May continues. The miners, at a large meeting in Stellarton held on 14th June, decided to continue their strike against the advice of the District Executive of their union, the United Mine Workers of America.

(B) Strike at Stamped and Enamelled Ware Co. Plant, Hespeler, Ont.

Following a walk-out of keymen in several departments, 150 employees of the Stamped and Enamelled Ware Company at Hespeler, Ont., went on strike on 14th June in protest against the refusal of the company to negotiate with the committee of the workers on the question of wages and improvement in sanitary conditions.

(C) Strike at A.R. Clarke's Tannery, Toronto, Ont.

The strike of 400 employees of the above named tannery continues. Seeking support of all leather workers, strikers cabled the British National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives for assistance. Two-thirds of the leather finished by this tannery is shipped to Great Britain, it is said.

(D) Lumber Workers' Strike at Crooked River (Sask.) Settled

The strike of employees of the B. F. Harris Lumber Company at Crooked River, Sask., was settled with the company conceding a 2½¢ per hour wage increase and a 2½¢ bonus to those who remain for the balance of the season.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

7. Communist Party at Edmonton to Popularize C.I.O.

The Communist Party in Edmonton, at a conference attended by delegates from all branches in the city on 6th June, decided to issue a trade union bulletin

popularizing the C.I.O. programme. A new City Central Committee was elected with a Bureau consisting of [deletion:1 line]

II. QUEBEC

8. [deletion:½ line] C.P. in Montreal Discuss C.I.O. Problem

[deletion:2 lines] reported on the Office Workers' Union, stating that over 10,000 office workers in Canada and the United States were represented at the Convention of Office Workers held in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. The convention, he said, decided to break away from the American Federation of Labor and to affiliate with the Committee for Industrial Organisation. He suggested that the local union take the same step and have a C.I.O. organiser sent to Montreal so a union could be built on an industrial basis which would take in not only the office workers but all types of professional workers as well. A lengthy discussion ensued. The majority of the members of the commission were of the opinion that it would be poor policy at this time to break away from the Trades and Labour Council in favour of C.I.O. affiliation. They felt that the council might make an issue out of it and expel the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers' union (an affiliate of the C.I.O.) which is at present affiliated with it. In order not to endanger the present standing of the A.A.I.S. & T. W. and various other C.I.O. bodies that may come into being it was decided that, for the time being, the local Office Workers' Union remain affiliated to the A.F. of L. The commission further decided that [deletion:2 words] be nominated for the executive of the Trades and Labour Council.
