

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Communist Party activities continue to centre around the question of aid to the Spanish Loyalists. With the fall of Bilbao, the Communist press has become more outspoken in its attack on Fascism, particularly Germany and Italy. Sponsored by the Young Communist League a "mass youth" demonstration is to be held in the near future before the Italian Consulate at Toronto, Ont., in protest against the "invasion of Spain by Germany and Italy".

John W. Buckley, secretary of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, has returned from the Soviet Union highly enthused over the progress made in the land of Socialism.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. "Directives" Explain C.P. Endeavours in Trade Union Field

The current "trade union policy" of the Communist Party of Canada is outlined in a set of "directives" [~~deletion: 3 1/2 lines~~]

(A) C.I.O. and A.F. of L. and the Organisation of the Unorganised

(1) We must eradicate the tendency which we permitted to develop of waiting upon the CIO to initiate and carry thru organisational drives in the unorganised industries, without sufficiently exerting our efforts to help ourselves. We must orientate ourselves towards the fullest developments of our own work in Canada, especially in those industries in which the CIO is conducting campaigns in the USA. This calls for (a) independent development of org. campaigns; (b) the establishment of local unions to be affiliated to their respective CIO organisation committee; (c) the election of local organisers to be paid by the local unions; (d) the development of self-reliance among the workers, and (e) the development of local leadership and a local apparatus. At the same time, attempt to get the CIO assistance and influence and CIO leadership for greater attention towards the Canadian situation.

(2) The idea of establishing a "Canadian CIO" or provincial or local CIO committee should not be advanced at present. The formation of CIO committees may seriously endanger the unity of the Canadian TU movement. Instead, we must try to develop campaigns to organise the unorganised thru the regular TU channels; in the first place thru the Org. Committees of the T & L Councils. (In Hamilton the Org. Comm. of the Council is helping to organise steel and textile into the two respective CIO unions. In the case of the Oshawa strike, the Toronto T. and L. came to the immediate assistance of the CIO Auto Union and accepted them into the Council. In the case of the Montreal Dress Strike, by another CIO union, a similar attitude is taken by the T. & L. Council of that city.) Instead of CIO committees, we propose the formation of Special Committees to help organise each specific industry. Thus we can help to form committees to assist in organising textile, steel, rubber, oil in Alberta or metal mining. Such committee should be formed in each locality in accordance with local conditions. The CIO unions should, of course, be most actively drawn into such committees. In addition, local committees of representatives of labor-fraternal and cultural bodies — YMCA's, unemployed bodies, churches, etc., can be established to help organise the unorganised, not only of one given industry in which a CIO union is conducting a campaign but also help

other existing unions (building trades, etc.) to increase their membership and to establish locals where none exist.

We should do all in our power to help both new industrial as well as the existing craft unions in their organisation campaigns. In industries where the CIO campaigns are being conducted we, of course, help to organise workers industrially into the CIO. We should not encourage the withdrawal of locals from craft unions but should strive to maintain unity of each international and carry on inside of such unions a fight against splits and for industrial unionism. While, thus far, no T. & L. Council has as yet expelled CIO affiliates, and while we must exert all our influence to retain the unity of each T. & L. Council in Canada,

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we should guard against the withdrawal of progressive local unions from a T. & L. Council from which CIO affiliates may be expelled. Such progressive local unions should remain within the Council, continuing there to fight for unity even though the expelled CIO locals may be obliged, in such cases, to form their own Council. However, the decision of the Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal Councils referred to above proves the deep desire for unity of the Canadian trade unions. This is what we must fight for in all cases, using the decisions of the last T. & L. Congress in Montreal as a basis.

(3) On the question of Canadian autonomy for the new unions which are being established in the basic industries, we should not raise this as an immediate task but gradually develop in each industry a Canadian district or districts (as the situation requires) with all the autonomous rights which districts enjoy. While we do not anticipate any objection to such move from the CIO, this should, nevertheless, be handled carefully. The question of a district must not be the first question raised with the CIO Org. Comm. It should instead grow out of the whole normal development of the drive, i.e., the need of co-ordination, planning, combatting nationalistic agitation, etc. At the same time, we must see to it that all newly organised CIO local unions affiliated to their respective T & L Councils and play their proper role inside the Councils by not only seeking assistance but also giving assistance to other unions.

(4) While the Party and its functionaries should and do, in very many instances, initiate and help in the organisation campaigns, we must guard against the dangerous practice of having a Party functionary act in the dual capacity of union organiser and Party organiser. This does not imply that prominent Party people should not act as union organisers. But for a section

organiser to be at the same time a union organiser is contrary to both the interests of the Party and the Unions.

(B) The CIO — AF of L and Trade Union Unity

(1) We should guard against the fatalistic view that the split is inevitable, but must bear in mind that successful organisation of thousands of unorganised workers and their affiliation to the local trades councils as well as our work within the craft unions will be decisive in avoiding a split.

(2) Our task must be to maintain unity in the Canadian trade union movement and to defeat the attempts of the Green forces to expel CIO affiliates from T & L Councils. Our position, as outlined in the CLARION editorial of March 18th, bases itself on (a) the needs and desires of the Canadian workers for unity and organisation; (b) decisions of 1936 T & L Congress Convention to retain unity of Canadian trade union movement. In our whole fight for unity of the Canadian trade union movement we should popularise and strive to uphold and adhere to the stand of the T & L Convention on this question; a stand which was for the maintenance of unity of the Canadian trade union movement.

(3) It would also be wrong to attempt to secure charters from the CIO for newly formed local unions which rightly should be a part of an existing international union. (The CIO, of course, does not, as a rule, issue such charters at present. We know of cases where people tried to secure CIO charters for milk drivers, cigar workers and what not. The CIO itself does not claim to be dual to the AF of L.)

(C) The A.C.C. of L. — C.F.L.

While still retaining our correct position against the reactionary Burford Meikle clique, which split the A.C.C. of L. and resurrected the CFL; while opposing all forms of poaching and scabbing under the cloak of industrial unionism and while maintaining the policy of co-operation and unity between the A.C.C. of L. and the international unions, we cannot lose sight of the

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important developments which demand a corresponding modification of our tactics. The attempt of the ACC. of L. to muscle in on the recently commenced CIO drives, as for instance in the case of the Algoma Steel Union which was affiliated to the ACC. of L., while the rest of the steel workers in Canada are in the A.A., is a splitting tactic which workers must combat. In the same manner, is it necessary to oppose the ACC. of L. when they represent themselves as "the Canadian Industrial Union which is dealing with the CIO for affiliation", as was recently done in London, Ont.

In addition, the recent struggle of the railroad employees for the return of the wage cut, the progressive steps taken by the railroad leaders and the isolated position of the CBRE and the ambiguous role played by the CBRE leaders, has raised a widespread desire among the members of this union for organic unity with the corresponding AF. of L. Union (B.R. & S.C.) the union which was recognised and which gained the conditions as a part of the Standard Railway Unions. In view of this development, it must be our task to help this healthy unity movement to fruition. The immediate developments in the CBRE, the backbone of the ACCL., will, of course, largely determine our whole future course within and towards the ACCL.

(D) The Situation in Quebec

The present padlock law adopted by the Duplessis Government of Quebec is not merely an attack on the C.P. but against the whole labor and progressive movement. The trumped-up charges against the leaders of the dressmakers and amalgamated clothing workers in Montreal and the attempt being made by Duplessis to use the Catholic Syndicates as a weapon against the International Unions, is proof of the real danger facing the whole labour movement in that province.

This open attack should be met with the most intensive drive to organise the unorganised in that province into the International T.U. textile, steel, pulp & paper and metal mining, lumber and other important industries, must become the concentration industries. The Party must awaken the whole labor movement to the seriousness of that situation and to the need of unionizing the Province of Quebec.

(E) Study Strike Strategy

The recent wave of sit-down strikes in the U.S. has, no doubt, exerted a powerful influence on the minds of the Canadian workers and there are already many examples of spontaneous similar strikes in Canada (Calgary, Edmonton, Samia, Windsor, Fort Frances, etc.) We must emphasize the necessity for concrete study by all T.U. activists of the new problems of strike strategy and organisation involved in such strikes. We must also warn against the false idea that "sit-down" are now the only strike tactics or that such a form of struggle requires less preparation and is easier to conduct than an ordinary strike. Whenever a sit-down strike is necessary and advisable, it requires the most careful preparation and the people in charge of preparations for such a strike must taken into account all the experiences gained in the recent wave of sit-down strikes. Unfortunately, the sit-down strikes in Canada thus far were almost without exception poorly prepared and failed to bring the desired results. They were, in the main, spontaneous actions of the workers themselves and were mechanical adaption of this important but delicate method of struggle.

In the concluding chapter, under the heading "Party Problems", the directives instruct that District Bureaus and Trade Union Commissions give immediate attention to this matter and call special meetings of leading trade unionists in their respective localities at which the various

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issues raised are to be introduced by competent Communist Party members. Lastly, the District Bureaus are reminded that:—

- (1) The building of the Party in the basic industries, especially in those where unionisation campaigns are being conducted, is our most urgent work. The ablest people should be assigned to work with these newly set-up industrial branches.
- (2) The question of promoting, developing and painstakingly guiding the new TU cadres is a burning necessity. This must be handled boldly and without delay. Educational work should be carefully planned and promoted, not only among the Party workers but TU classes should be organised inside the unions and outside of the unions for all workers.
- (3) The whole Party must be mobilised to give leadership and set the example and the pace in organising the unions for the maintenance of unity of the TU movement in Canada, in winning the unions for a broad people's movement, in winning the best trade unionists for the Party and in still further establishing the CLARION as the recognised mouthpiece of the Canadian Trade Union Movement.

2. B.C. Lumber Workers Taking Referendum on Question of Affiliation with C.I.O.

The Federation of Wood Workers Conference held in Portland, Ore., on 7th June decided to initiate a referendum vote on the question of affiliation to the Committee for Industrial Organisation. This decision was made after representatives of both the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the C.I.O. representatives had addressed the delegates. The resolution passed reads, in part, as follows:—

"That this conference of all affiliated District Councils in joint session with the Executive Board of the Federation of Wood Workers go on record to immediately conduct a referendum ballot of our entire membership on the question of affiliation with the CIO".

The case for the C.I.O. was laid before the conference by John Brophy, director of the C.I.O., and Harry Bridges, leader of the Maritime Federation, while A.

W. Muir, vice-president of the U.B.C.J., in a vigorous burst of oratory assailed the Wood Workers Federation declaring that it was set up by a "bunch of Communists" and stating emphatically that it would not be recognised by the Brotherhood. He also attacked the C.I.O. asserting that it was getting "a licking from the American Federation of Labor".

As a result of the conference the Federation of Wood Workers has placed 40 organisers in the field, five in British Columbia, and 35 in Washington, Oregon and California, with the object of establishing one hundred per cent organisation in as short a time as possible. This apparently has been made possible by an advance of finances from the CIO.

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The balloting is in progress now and it is a foregone conclusion that the vote would go in favour of affiliation with the C.I.O. However, as far as the British Columbia loggers are concerned, every endeavour will be made to retain their representation in the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council. The result of the referendum will be officially announced at the Wood Workers Federation Convention which is scheduled to take place on 15th July.

3. Aid to Spanish Loyalists

Dr. Norman Bethune returned to Montreal, Que., on the evening of 17th June and on his arrival at the Windsor Station was received by a cheering crowd of approximately 1,000. On the evening of the 18th he was the principal speaker at a meeting in the Mount Royal Arena held under the auspices of the local Spanish Aid Committee. It was one of the largest meetings ever held in this Arena; approximately 500 people were unable to gain admittance. Dr. Bethune's arrival in the Arena was marked by loud cheering and the Communist salute. R.C. Calder, K.C., presided over the meeting and speeches were also given by Jack Cupello, vice-president of the Montreal Trades and Labour Council, Norman Lee, secretary-treasurer of the local Spanish Aid Committee, and Reverend R. K. Naylor, a Minister of the Anglican Church.

Dr. Bethune told the history of his Medical Unit and outlined the principles for which the Loyalists were fighting. He described in detail the formation of his Blood Transfusion Unit and its work and criticised the Government at Ottawa for not allowing its British representative to give him the necessary papers so that he might obtain a permit to facilitate the passage through France of his Ambulance Unit on its way to Spain. The unit, he said, is now housed in a 16-room mansion formerly occupied by the Legal Adviser to the German

Embassy. Dr. Bethune's speech was translated into French by Hubert Desaulniers.

It is estimated that at least 8,000 people attended the meeting which, it is considered, has been a success from every point of view. R. C. Calder, chairman of the meeting, announced that the collection taken netted between \$1,800 and \$2,000. At the beginning of the meeting a two-minutes' silence was observed in memory of those Canadian volunteers who lost their lives while fighting for the Loyalists in Spain.

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Although no figures have been made available, the result of the "Spanish Aid Week" (30th May to 10th June) conducted by the Communist Party of Canada has apparently exceeded all expectation. Due to the success attending the campaign, the Communist Party plans to purchase two ambulances for Spain. The ambulances will be accompanied by complete Canadian staffs, [~~deletion: 1 line~~] will act as driver of one of these ambulances. The Communist Party would like to make public the names of the personnel of the ambulance staffs but so far, they have not reached any decision in this connection as they are afraid that the Federal Government may stop the sending of the ambulances.

The Communist Party intends to send an additional 500 volunteers to Spain by next fall, recent reports indicate. The number of Canadian volunteers now in Spain is said to be 500.

4. "Glos Pracy" Campaign a Success

Incomplete returns of the Glos Pracy campaign conducted by the Polish People's Association during the month of May, as published in the 19th June edition of that paper, indicate that the quota set has been oversubscribed. Over \$2,000 have been collected for the sustaining fund and 199 new subscribers secured.

5. Leslie Morris Takes Charge of C.P. Activity in Alberta

Leslie Morris, editor-in-chief of the Daily Clarion, has been transferred to Alberta to supervise Communist Party activities in that province. He has been replaced by T. C. Sims, who returned from Moscow some few months ago. Andrew Hogarth, provincial secretary of the C.P. in Alberta, has been trans-

ferred to Sudbury, Ont., and Lawrence Anderson is replacing Hogarth as provincial secretary in that province.

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6. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada
(A) Coal Miners Strike in Pictou County, N.S.

By a majority of 310 the men on strike since 31st May at the Acadia Coal Company's collieries at Stellarton and Thorburn, on 21st June voted to return to work pending an investigation into conditions in the industry in Pictou County.

(B) Strike at No. 1B Mine, Glace Bay, C.B.

A strike involving 1,100 men employed at No. 1B mine in Glace Bay started on 23rd June. The walkout, quite unofficial and not sanctioned by the union leadership, has been called in support of 15 Pit Bottom workers who are demanding increase in wages.

(C) Strike of Short Duration at Sydney (N.S.) Steel Plant

One hundred and fifty men came out on strike at the Sydney Steel Plant on 23rd June asking for higher pay. A settlement was reached and work was resumed on the following morning.

(D) Strike at Stamped & Enamelled Ware Co. Plant, Hespeler

The strike of 150 employees of the above named company, which has been in progress since 14th June, continues. A caravan of cars containing members of the various Toronto lodges of the Amalgamated Assoc. of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America is scheduled to leave Toronto for Hespeler, Ont., on 24th June to declare their "solidarity" with the Hespeler strikers.

**(E) Viceroy Rubber Co. Plant in West Toronto Affected
by Strike of Key Men**

Workers in key departments of the Viceroy Rubber Co. Plant in West Toronto came out on strike on 23rd June demanding reinstatement of four

members of the United Rubber Workers of America who, it is alleged, had been discharged for union activity. This plant employs 140 workers, it is said.

(F) Textile Workers Strike at Renfrew, Ont.

Employees of the Renfrew Woollen Mills and the Renfrew Textile Co. at Renfrew struck on 18th June for increases in wages and shorter hours. The strike, involving about 300 workers, continues.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Relief Project Workers Union Attempt to Enlist Support of
Loggers Temporarily Out of Work During July & August

As is customary in British Columbia, to offset fire hazard during July and August, a number of lumber camps in the province intend closing during that period which will involve from 6,000 to 7,000 workers. There are indications that the Relief Project Workers' Union will attempt to enlist the support of these lumber workers temporarily out of work with a view to forcing the Government to continue some sort of relief for single unemployed.

According to the plans of the League Against War and Fascism all trade unions, churches and service clubs in the City of Vancouver will be canvassed for funds within the next two weeks for the purpose of advertising Dr. Bethune's visit to the Coast.

Arthur Evans, who is touring the interior of British Columbia under the auspices of the Communist Party for funds for Spain, is meeting with every success, it is said.

II. SASKATCHEWAN

8. C.I.O. Requested to Organise Miners in Southern Sask.

There are indications that another attempt will be made to organise the workers employed in the lignite mines of Southern Saskatchewan. This time, under the aegis of the C.I.O., it is understood that the Committee for Industrial Organisation headquarters in the U.S.A. have been requested to send an organiser into the mining area of that province. Although several attempts have been made during the past by the Communists, the miners of the Bienfait area are still unorganised.

III. MANITOBA

9. Communist Leaders Tell Winnipeg Unemployed to Organise or Starve

Alderman Jacob Penner and Mitchie Sago told an open air meeting of unemployed at Winnipeg on 19th June that they — the unemployed — must either organise or starve. Penner remarked that it should be possible

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to organise 4,000 of the 6,000 unemployed in the city. Both speakers appealed to the audience to attend a protest parade which is scheduled to take place on 29th June. The parade will be in protest against the cut in relief grants which the City Council intends to put into force on 1st July. Mitchie Sago informed the audience that the salvation of the unemployed lies in organisation.

A meeting of the Relief Project Workers Union at Winnipeg held on 21st June appointed a number of organisers to be sent to the various camps to organise. They include: [~~1 line~~]

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A determined effort is to be made by the Communists in Winnipeg to increase the Weekly Clarion sales, now standing at 1,600 copies per issue, to 3,000 copies. The Daily Clarion sale is given at 1,800 copies per issue for the City of Winnipeg, Man.