

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 13th July, 1937.

SECRETNO. 863WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The fifth B.C. Provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, meeting in Vancouver on 2nd July, voted against the Communist Party United Front proposal by 129 to 40. It was decreed that there would be no alliance between the C.C.F. and the Communists, and regulations were passed forbidding C.C.F. members to talk Popular Front, Stalinism or Trotskyism in public on pain of being disciplined. A. M. Stephen remains expelled from the C.C.F., the convention resolved. The Nanaimo-Alberni group fought hard to have him reinstated. The vote on this issue was 91-61, which indicates that Stephen has a large personal following in the C.C.F., and it is anticipated that the subject of his expulsion will be resurrected at embarrassing short intervals. The outcome of the Stephen controversy hits the Communist Party very hard, for Stephen was useful as a cat's paw inside the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. C.P. Tactics in Textile Industry Revealed

The National Trade Union Commission of the Communist Party of Canada [~~deletion:3 lines~~] decided to proceed with the formation of a Canadian National Textile Workers' Union under a Dominion Trades and Labour Congress charter. The decisions of the Commission are embodied in a letter addressed by the Commission to all Section Committees of the Communist Party of Canada in Southern Ontario and Quebec, a copy of which follows:-

"July 3rd, 1937.

"Dear Comrades:

We held a special meeting on the textile situation this morning where all angles of the problem were thoroughly gone into. The basic features at present are as follows:

1. The Textile Workers' Organising Committee (C.I.O.) definitely decided not to undertake any organisation campaign in the textile industry in Canada at the present time due to the immensity of their problem in the U.S.A.
2. The textile workers throughout the country, without leadership or guidance are developing spontaneous struggles for higher wages and other better conditions. These struggles, unorganised, rarely end successfully. Immediate co-ordination and planning in textile is imperative.
3. The All-Canadian Congress of Labour has set up a number of very weak locals in textile, thus further splitting the ranks of the textile workers. In addition there is, of course, the situation of the Catholic Syndicate in the Province of Quebec.
4. P. Draper, president of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, realizing the need for organisation and convinced of the position of the T.W.O.C. towards Canada, is prepared to grant charters to textile workers in Canada as part of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, (which means part of the International Trade Union movement).
5. Very recently, Bastien, American Federation of Labor organiser in Quebec, has begun to develop the idea for the formation of the textile unions in Canada affiliated directly to the A.F. of L. since the United Textile Workers is now part of the Textile Workers' Organising Committee.

Reviewing all these factors, our Committee has arrived at the following decisions:

1. To oppose strenuously the proposal for a new A.F. of L. Textile Union since such a step would strengthen the splitting and scabbing tactics of W.

Green, because the textile workers in the U.S. one million and a quarter of which are organising in the T.W.O.C.

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2. Apply for a national charter from the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and to set up a Canadian textile organisation which, we hope, will ultimately affiliate to the textile union in the U.S.A.

3. Should we fail to get a national charter from the T. & L. Congress, then we should agree to take charters for federal locals in textile and later co-ordinate the activities of these federal locals by the holding of a conference and the setting up of a co-ordinating committee.

4. Under no condition should the T.W.O.C. (CIO) be criticised for their attitude towards Canada, since this would play into the hands of the anti-CIO forces and the reactionary A.F. of L. leaders, but to defend the T.W.O.C. before the textile workers of our country, explain the reasons for their policy towards Canada and attempt to establish the closest relationship between the union that will be set up in Canada and the T.W.O.C.

5. To convince the leaders of the union in Cornwall (largest organisation of textile workers in Canada) to take the initiative and issue immediately a call for a conference to all existing textile local unions in Canada to be held next Saturday or Sunday, July 10th or 11th, in the city of Toronto where this policy will be officially adopted and where a provincial national set-up will take place. This conference cannot be postponed because of (a) Bastien's idea; (b) the activities of the A.C.C.L.; (c) the strikes which are now in progress. The call can base itself mainly upon the strike situation, need for co-ordination, etc. If the call should be issued at the beginning of the week, it would give enough time for the representative of the locals, Montreal, Cornwall, Peterboro, Toronto, Renfrew and representatives of other groups to come. Every day counts, and the textile workers will understand the need for haste.

6. To suggest to the leader of the Cornwall union to immediately begin negotiations with the president of the Trades Congress and to win him for this plan. This should be done between now and the conference, so that he may have a definite statement to make at the conference in the name of the Trades Congress.

7. As soon as arrangements for a national charter will be completed with the Trades Congress, committees to help organise textile should be set up in every important textile centre. This to be done with the aid of the Congress and the respective Trades and Labour Councils and to consist of outstanding trade union people of both A.F. of L. and CIO unions, as well

as representative people from other labour organisations and progressive bodies.

8. Since there will be an enlarged D.B. meeting on the 10th and 11th in Toronto, to which will come most of the section secretaries, we shall also hold during those two days special conference on the textile campaign. If the official textile conference will take place as we suggest in Toronto next weekend, it will enable us to have the textile leaders at our own conference on textile. This conference of ours will serve as a Party mobilisation for the new campaign in this industry.

This analysis and the agreement reached on the basis of a thorough discussion should serve us as an immediate guide in the development of the campaign in textile. It is necessary that we act speedily, that we guarantee the carrying out of these proposals which, we are confident, will be welcomed by the textile workers of Canada and which will result in the unionisation of the industry.

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Please act upon this immediately. Reply at once as to your plans and make all proposals that you care to make.

Comradely yours,  
TUC."

Regarding clauses 5 and 6 of the above instructions, a special press despatch from Cornwall dated 8th July which appeared in The Ottawa Journal under the caption "Textile Workers May Form Canadian Union" quotes Arthur Laverty, president of the Cornwall Textile Workers' Union — an affiliate of the United Textile Workers' Association (C.I.O.) — as having said that letters were being sent out to all textile locals in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes asking them to appoint representatives to attend a conference for consideration of a proposal for unification of all textile unions on a national basis. To quote from the despatch: —

"The proposal is for the formation of a Canadian national central organization, under the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress", Mr. Laverty explained. "Naturally, this would mean a break with the United Textile Workers' Association, an international body now an affiliate of the C.I.O. Not all the Canadian textile locals are linked up with the U.T.W.A. Some in Quebec are members of the Catholic Syndicate; some have no affiliations. We believe that establishment of a national, central organization would bring about unification".

The foregoing illustrates how quickly the Communist Party apparatus can be put into operation and how the Party functions in disguise.

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### 2. C.I.O. Start Drive to Unionize Peterboro Plants

A drive to unionize four plants at Peterboro, Ont., under the Committee for Industrial Organisation banner has been launched recently according to Charles Millard, president of the Oshawa local of the United Automobile Workers of America who addressed a meeting of several hundred strikers from the two plants of the Dominion Woollens and Worsteds on 4th July. The four factories to be brought into the C.I.O. fold, according to Millard, are Canadian Johnson Motors, Canadian Raybestos Co., DeLaval Co., and the Peterboro Canoe Co. The striking textile workers were the vanguard of "a mighty labour surge that would sweep the city", he declared. "We are on the march and no industry is going to stop us", said Millard. He declared that the C.I.O. had no desire to cut in on the American Federation of Labor but was in Peterboro to organise any unorganised workers. He prophesied that the union would spread to other

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factories and that assistance would be given wherever it was asked for. According to Millard, there are 4,000 union workers in Oshawa and during the past two months only 57 have been lax in their dues. He said that 219 new members had been enrolled during the last month.

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### 3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

[~~2-3 words~~] member of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion fighting for the Spanish-Valencia Government, returned to Toronto, Ont., on 5th July. [~~1 word~~] had been wounded and the Communist Party of Canada negotiated with the C.P. of Spain to have him returned to do propaganda work in Canada for the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion.

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The Young Communist League at Toronto held an open air meeting at the corner of Spadina and Dundas Streets on the evening of 30th June at which a resolution was adopted protesting against the "invasion of Italian Fascists into Spain". Peter Hunter, Lily Himmelfarb and John Weir spoke condemning the Italian and German Governments for their invasion of Spain. The resolution read, in part: -

"The Canadian people refuse to remain silent about the brutal warfare being conducted against the Spanish people by Italian Fascists and that the democratic people of Canada demand the immediate withdrawal of all Italian forces and war material now in Spain".

Following a collection for the members of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, the meeting adjourned and the demonstrators paraded to the Italian Consulate to present the resolution adopted at the meeting. A few banners were carried bearing such slogans as "Down with Mussolini", "Continue the fight for Democracy of Spain", "Hands Off Spain", etc. On arrival at the said Consulate the demonstrators, led by John Weir, C.P. representative on the Public School Board in Toronto, were refused entrance to the building by a detail of Toronto City Police. Considerable booing and jeering ensued but the demonstrators eventually dispersed without having presented their resolution.

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#### 4. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

##### (A) Machine Runners at Florence Colliery, N.S., Return to Work

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's Florence Colliery, which was tied up as a result of the machine runners refusing to work on on 27th June, has commenced operation again on 2nd July pending a decision in regard to the action of the machine runners.

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##### (B) Strike at John B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, Ont.

The strike at the above named plant, which is being conducted by the Hat Workers' Union, Local 74 of the United Hatters, Cap & Millinery Workers, continues with the company refusing to meet the demands of the strikers.

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##### (C) Steel Strike at Montreal, Que.

The strike of 100 employees of the plumbing supply manufacturing firm of W. R. Cuthbert at Montreal remains unchanged. One of the strike leaders, Napoleon St. Andre, was arrested on 8th July and held without bail charged with assaulting a strike breaker. Union leaders in turn caused the arrest of the manager, Jack Gallagher, on charges of provocation.

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##### (D) Leather Workers Strike at Toronto, Ont.

About 400 employees of the Perfect Leather Garment firm at Toronto went on strike on 5th July in an attempt to force union demands for an agreement with the company officials. Strikers blamed the firm's failure to renew agreements which expired on 30th June for the strike.

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(E) Textile Strike at Peterboro, Ont.

An agreement has been drafted for presentation to the management by the striking employees of the Dominion Woollens and Worsteds at Peterboro which includes demands for a 10 cent an hour increase for time workers, 25% increase for those on piece rates, time and a half for overtime, Sundays and holidays, and recognition of Local 2551, United Textile Workers of America, as sole bargaining agency for the employees.

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(F) Brick and Tile Makers at Cooksville, Ont., Stage  
Short Strike

After a short and successful strike on 5th July, approximately 250 brick and tile makers employed at the Cooksville Brick and Tile Co., Cooksville, signed up with a Shop Committee consisting of two representatives from each department which is to function pro tem until a federal charter is obtained from the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. Speakers from Toronto, addressing a meeting of the employees, urged the formation of a union as a "means of consolidating their gains and making sure that the provisions of their agreement entered into with the company were lived up to".

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(G) Longshoremen Strike at Thorold, Ont.

Unloading of two freighters which brought pulpwood to the Ontario Paper Company plant at Thorold was halted on 7th July when 130 longshoremen went on strike. The men, members of the Longshoremen's Union (AF of L), are demanding pay increases and union recognition.

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(H) Many Arrested in Fur Strike at Winnipeg, Man.

Twenty-six striking fur workers are said to have been arrested at Winnipeg on 6th July on charges of besetting and watching. Information was laid by Jack Cohen, of the W. Cohen Fur Co.; warrants have been issued for the arrest of 45 men and women pickets. Among those already arrested are said to be M. Borum, international organiser of the International Fur Workers' Union of America, and L. Robbins, local business agent. Issuance of the 45 warrants came 24 hours after 15 other strikers and pickets had appeared in court before



Magistrate Graham. Charges in this instance arose out of a disturbance on the picket line during May, in connection with the now one year old fur strike.

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(1) Waiters & Bar Tenders Strike in Drumheller, Alta.

Waiters and bar tenders of the White House, Alexandra and Waldorf Hotels at Drumheller went on strike on 3rd July against the refusal of the hotel owners to recognise their union and cede the strikers' demands for higher wages.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

5. C.P. in Alberta to Increase Its Membership to 2,500  
by October Next

Leslie Morris, now in charge of Communist Party activities in Alberta, speaking at a meeting [~~3-4 words~~] of the C.P. of Calgary, 27th June, declared that the C.P. in Alberta must increase its membership to 2,500 before October next. He also stressed the need for increasing the circulation of the C.P. organ the Clarion saying that it should be doubled before the next National Convention of the Party, which is to take place some time in October. He also spoke of the task of the Party in the trade unions saying that this is one of its primary tasks. Speaking on the farmers' problem he said that it was the task of the Party to organise the farmers into the United Farmers of Alberta. [~~2 1/4 lines~~] He further stated that the party will hold a Provincial Convention at Edmonton commencing 31st July at which a delegate to the National Convention will be elected.

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Speaking at a meeting [~~2-3 words~~] of the Communist Party at Edmonton on 30th June, [~~1 line~~] dealt with some of the basic problems facing the Party in that province at the present time. "To root our Party into the trade unions and basic industries, to utilise the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, United Farmers of Alberta and progressive Social Credit Groups as instruments of struggle for a popular Farmer-Labour Party which will eventually lead to a People's Government in Alberta is our basic task", he said. "We must struggle for the unity of all progressive forces like we have achieved in the Drumheller Valley, and expose the reactionary forces of the old line Parties and also the Right Wing leadership in the trade unions,

Social Credit Groups, C.C.F. and U.F.A.," he declared. He further stated that the Party must concentrate its forces for the time being on the oil fields in the Turner Valley, organising same under the banner of the C.I.O. In the next Provincial election the Party must become the spokesman of the "common" people. He also dealt with the preparations

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that are being made for the coming Provincial Convention of the Party, which is to convene at Edmonton on 31st July.

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## II. MANITOBA

### 6. Winnipeg Communists Launch New Unemployed Movement

The Communist Party at Winnipeg is now organising the unemployed into a new organisation called the Relief Workers' Union. Four locals of the union have been started thus far, one in Ward 1 with an initial membership of 47, one in Ward 2 with 64 members and one each in Ward 3 and Fort Rouge with a membership of 171 and 31, respectively.

The question of admitting the new R.W.U. to the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council came up at a meeting of the Council on 26th June and provoked considerable discussion. Some of the Council Executive members bluntly stated that this new R.W.U. was merely a new way for the C.P. to flood the Council with delegates. Objection was also voiced on the grounds that members of the said union did not belong to any craft and were, in fact, unemployed and not working at any trade. The matter, apparently, was not settled at this Council meeting and the C.P. leaders have resolved to organise as many locals as quickly as possible and to force the issue in the Trades and Labour Council (which they practically control) with a view to having each local of the R.W.U. represented on the Council. To overcome some of the objection they also propose to change the name of the union to "Manitoba Projects Union".

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An international picnic held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada at the farm of the Workers' Benevolent Association in East Kildonan, Man., on 4th July was attended by over 800 persons and the net revenue derived therefrom is said to have been over \$275. The affair was a great success, it is claimed. Molly Brown, who has been organising at Portage la Prairie among the farmers recently speaking at this picnic stated that she is

making considerable headway and that the farmers are "beginning to listen to what we have to say" and are taking a keener interest in their own affairs.

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### III. QUEBEC

#### 7. Steel Strike Situation Discussed at Meeting of Montreal C.P. Trade Union Commission

The local Communist Party Trade Union Commission at Montreal met on the afternoon of 3rd July with 15 members in attendance. It was agreed that the Commission meet every second Saturday and that once a month, on Saturday, a fraction meeting of all C.P. delegates to the Trades and Labour Council be held. The first item discussed was the strike situation in the Cuthbert Company plant. This plant, it was said, employs approximately 100 men of whom 98 are involved in the strike. [deletion:1 word] C.P. contact employed at Cuthbert's, reported that the morale of the strikers was very high and the discipline good; that picketing has been peaceful and without causing any trouble to police authorities. He expressed the opinion that the strike can be won if financial support would be forthcoming from the trade unions of the city and the C.I.O.

Lucien Dufour, C.I.O. organiser from Montreal, remarked that the chances of winning the strike were good and that support has been promised by Trepanier, chairman of the local Trades and Labour Council. He further stated that although the men had been advised against going on strike at the present time and warned that lack of finances would be the main factor to contend with, they had, nevertheless, insisted on striking and the local C.I.O. office was virtually forced into calling the strike. He informed the meeting that a letter will be sent to the international C.I.O. office urging financial support for the strikers. The letter, he said, will be signed by himself (Dufour) and Trepanier.

[deletion:1 word] speaking for the local C.P. Bureau, said that the strike should not have been called at the present time because of the apparent weakness of the union. He further stated that the National Trade Union Commission of the C.P. had advised against it. Dealing with the question of financial support, [deletion:1 word] emphasised that the local comrades must realise that the C.I.O. in the U.S.A. cannot give financial support to local strikes as the C.I.O. is now in need of funds to carry on strike activity in the U.S.A. and therefore cannot extend any financial assistance to any Canadian strike movement. The C.P. leadership in the United States within the C.I.O.,

he said, has repeatedly requested that no demands be made for funds and advised against calling strikes in Canada at the

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present time. Under these circumstances, should further demands for funds be made the C.P. (U.S.A.) trade union leaders will lose all respect for the Canadian trade union section of the C.P. and may take the matter up with the higher bodies. [~~deletion: 1 word~~] added that any funds that are to be raised must be done in Montreal among the unions and the strikers must understand that they are to undergo many hardships before they can win a strike. He criticised the calling of the strike, saying it was a serious mistake and that there was very little possibility of winning unless employees in other plants come to the support of the strikers. The only alternative he said, is to immediately attempt to organise the workers in those plants. He informed the meeting that Lyon Cohen, owner of the Cuthbert Company plant, also owns the Freedman Clothing Company plant and recommended that a threat should be made to call a strike in the latter plant should he persist in refusing to negotiate. He further suggested that in view of the fact that Cohen is a prominent member of the Jewish society, meetings should be held in the Jewish district exposing the conditions prevailing in the Cuthbert plant.

Following additional discussion, the meeting agreed: —

- (1) To issue a C.I.O. organisation leaflet and distribute same at the Robertson, Mitchell and Crane plants.
- (2) To call a meeting in the Jewish district and distribute a Jewish leaflet.
- (3) To interview the leadership of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union with a view to securing financial support and to discuss the possibility of calling the strike in the Freedman Clothing Company plant.

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