

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 5th August, 1937.

SECRETNO. 866WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Proclamation of Order-in-Council making the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act applicable to the present armed conflict in Spain has created considerable alarm in Communist Party circles. The Communist press is violently denouncing the enactment; says the Daily Clarion, central organ of the C.P. of C., for 3rd August in its leading editorial:

"This is a shameful stain upon Canadian democracy. Our government, which promised to follow a course in international relationships that would make for world peace, has yielded to the worst reactionaries of St. James street, Bay street and Downing street.....

"Now, today, when the Loyalist government is plainly showing that democracy is getting the upper hand, when the fascists are reeling under the powerful offensives of Spain's united army, when Spain's factories are humming productively to win the war, and when the government and people are clearing out their rearguard of Franco's Fifth Column carrion — reaction is striking new blows against the heroic Spanish people and world democracy.....

"Canada demands that Ottawa takes action on the Spanish situation. The preliminary step must be to wipe out this shameful order-in-council, dictated by Downing street, Canada's 50 multi-millionaires and the reactionary circles around Cardinal Villeneuve. This order-in-council is contrary to Canadian public opinion, contrary to the pledges given our people by Mackenzie King and the Liberal party. It must go!

"Canada must, and will do her duty to Spanish democracy and herself. Take up your pen or pencil this moment. Write to Mr. King and to your federal M.P. and demand that justice be rendered to the Spanish republic. Demand that the stain on Canada's name be removed.

"Increase our aid to the boys of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion! Let them know that the real Canada, the Canada of the common people, is with them and the Spanish people in their glorious fight to make Spain the tomb of fascism!

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### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

#### 1. Sixteenth Annual Convention of U.L.F.T.A.

The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association held its 16th Annual Convention at Winnipeg, Man., from 19th to 26th July with 210 official delegates in attendance representing the various branches of the organisation throughout Canada. Thirty-eight of these delegates were from Winnipeg and vicinity. There were also present fraternal delegates and guest speakers including Dr. Norman Bethune, L. St. G. Stubbs, M.L.A., and M. Nastasiwski, Editor of Ukrainian Daily News in New York. Following the convention of the U.L.F.T.A., the conventions of its subsidiary organisations were held, each organisation conducting its own affairs but under the strict supervision and guidance of the parent body. The sessions, held quite openly, were directed so as to convey the impression that the affairs of the organisation are conducted in a democratic manner with the rank and file membership playing the leading role. The chief slogan of the convention was "For a People's Front".

On 17th and 18th July, prior to the U.L.F.T.A. Convention, a Communist Party "fraction" meeting was held attended by over 70 members — delegates to the convention — at which John Boychuck, General Secretary of the U.L.F.T.A., reported on the situation in the Ukrainian organisations. Sam Carr of Toronto, representing the Political Bureau of the Party, dictated the "line" for the convention, the course it should pursue and what stand it should take on the various issues involved. All important matters before the convention were dealt with and passed upon by this caucus.

At the convention of the U.L.F.T.A. reports of delegates were heard first, followed by the report of the Executive Committee. Several changes were indicated in the Executive Committee's report, most of which were accepted by the convention. Among the changes suggested were: —

- (a) Discontinuation of "Robotnycia" (Working Woman), a bi-monthly and organ of the Women's Section of the U.L.F.T.A., which has been in circulation for a good many years,

because of financial difficulties. In place of publishing this bi-monthly magazine it was suggested and agreed to allot sufficient space in the Ukrainian Labour News and in Farmers' Life, the former a daily and the latter a weekly, for any material, correspondence, etc., concerning women.

- (b) Changing of name of the Youth Section of the U.L.F.T.A. into "Federation of Canadian Ukrainian Youth".

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- (c) A change in the name of the Ukrainian Labour News as well as method of publishing. This was agreed in principle and referred to the Executive Committee for action.

The report of the Central Executive Committee submitted by J. Boychuk, its secretary, disclosed that the organisation now has 165 active branches throughout Canada with a combined paid-up membership of 4,415; thirty-one of these are new branches organised since the last convention. The report further disclosed that the organisation owns 84 buildings (Temples) throughout Canada representing a net value, exclusive of mortgages and debts, of \$450,514.43.

P. Lysets reported on the children's schools conducted by the association stating that the association now has 54 incorporated schools, 51 teachers, attended by 1,945 pupils.

The convention expressed general satisfaction over the results of the Higher Educational Course as well as local courses held throughout Canada which had for their purpose the training of new cadres of organisers and teachers. It was alleged that these courses made it possible to acquire 37 new local branches of the organisation in various parts of Canada. It was decided to raise \$5,000 for another Higher Educational Course to be held in Winnipeg in 1938. It was also agreed to continue holding local short courses of six weeks' duration in the various districts.

The convention granted the incoming Executive Committee wider powers in dealing with the affairs of the association between conventions which, for economic reasons, are to be held now only every three years. This will enable the administration, which consists of trusted Communists, to carry on without much interference on the part of the rank and file.

The Women's Section of the association met in convention on 20th July with 45 women delegates and 13 men in attendance, and endorsed the suggestion to liquidate "Robotnycia" as suggested in the Executive Committee's report. Mrs. Lysets submitted the main report showing that the Women's Section has participated in all "class fights" and for peace and liberty. The

gathering resolved to place more active women organisers in the field with a view to increasing the strength of the section throughout Canada.

The Youth Section also met on 20th July with 67 delegates in attendance of whom nine were members of the Executive Committee, 12 from the Pioneer Section and four guests. Kashtan, of the Y.C.L. of Canada,

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greeted the delegates. M. Seychuk, Executive Secretary, gave the main report showing a great change in the organisation since the last convention. The report showed that there are now 59 branches in existence with a membership of 1,800. Twenty of the branches were organised since the last convention. The report further disclosed that a number of the members are now in Spain fighting in the ranks of the Loyalist Army, and that the section had 30 delegates participating in the second meeting of the Canadian Youth Congress which took place in Montreal during the latter part of May last. The report proposed to change the name of the Youth Section to "Federation of Ukrainian Canadian Youth". The proposal to change the name was endorsed.

The convention of the Workers' Benevolent Association was held on 28th, 29th and 30th July with 67 delegates in attendance representing 77 mandates. The Executive Secretary's report disclosed an increase in membership since the last convention, showing a total membership of 4239. It was resolved to increase this membership to 5,000 by the end of this year. Among the important matters discussed was the question of amalgamation with the International Workers' Order of the U.S.A. It was pointed out that the obstacles were such that consummation of this step was not practicable at present and the convention, therefore, decided to apply for a Dominion Charter. The convention decided to pay sick benefits to all members over 65 years of age and to provide financial assistance for the Higher Educational Course of the U.L.F.T.A.; also to render material assistance to the Ukrainians now in Spain fighting in the ranks of the International Brigade. The convention gave considerable attention to the matter of disposing of what is usually known as the Parkdale Institute owned by the association. While it was generally desired to dispose of the property, it was said that there were no purchasers for it. It was intimated that a cash offer of \$10,000 would be accepted.

The financial report showed cash assets at the end of the second quarter, 1937, of \$115,588.73.

The convention of Todowymazu (Society to aid the liberation movement in Western Ukraine) completed the affair. Liszczyński, Sec'y., gave a report on the activities and achievement of the organisation stating that \$12,884.00 has been sent to Poland and approximately \$9,000 had been used in Canada assisting the revolutionary movement. Altogether

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the organisation has raised approximately \$25,000. It was resolved to extend organisational work with a view to interesting wider masses of Ukrainians in the aims and objects of the organisation. A resolution was passed addressed to the Canadian Government urging it to protest to the Polish Government against the "atrocities in Western Ukraine". It was stated that there are now 60,000 political prisoners incarcerated in Poland, 95% of whom are Ukrainians.

The Executive Committee elected by the convention of the U.L.F.T.A. for the ensuing year consists of: —

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

Two mass meetings, one held on 22nd July at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and the other held on the 25th at the old Exhibition grounds, constituted a feature of this gathering. The one held on the 22nd, which packed the Temple to capacity, was addressed by L. St. G. Stubbs, M.L.A., S. Sawula and James Litterick, M.L.A.; they greeted the convention wishing it every possible success. Both Stubbs and Sawula praised the C.P. giving it credit for being the "vanguard or spearhead of the struggle for a better life". The meeting at the Exhibition Grounds was attended by over 3,000 people and the speakers were five of the delegates attending the convention: George Krenz of Saskatoon, Mrs. Anna Semenoff of Kirkland Lake, Ont., W. Halina of Myrnam, Alta., Mutzak, a youth delegate from Vancouver and one of the graduates of the last Higher Educational Course, and M. Nastas (Nastasiwski), Editor of Ukrainian Daily News, New York City. Krenz analysed the situation brought about by the drought in Southern Saskatchewan; Mrs. Semenoff spoke on conditions in Northern Ontario, particularly among the miners; Halina discussed the situation in Alberta; Mutzak, the Youth Congress held in Montreal; while M. Nastas-

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iwski (the principal speaker) spoke on the need for a People's Front, particularly among the Ukrainian people of Canada and the U.S.A. The latter speaker also dealt with the situation in Western Ukraine condemning what he referred to as the atrocities committed by the Polish Gov't.

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## 2. Communists Prepare for Annual Meeting of Trades & Labour Congress of Canada

That the Communist Party of Canada is making necessary preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress is

indicated in a directive issued by Jan Lakeman, C.P. leader at Edmonton, to all sections and branches of the Party at Edmonton captioned "Convention, Trades Congress of Canada":

"Now that the 'convention call' for the Trades Congress of Canada, to be held at Ottawa, has been sent out to all affiliated local unions and trades councils, steps should be taken without delay to finish the last preparations for the election and financing of the delegates.

"This Trades Congress is important in the light of the developments in the U.S.A., between the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. General Council, which has its reflection in Canada. The Congress is important also because of the situation in Europe, the far East as well as the developments in our own country.

"Because of its importance at this time, Western Canada, in spite of the cost to send delegates to an Ottawa Congress, must be well represented with delegates from local unions and Trades Councils.

"Unions sending delegates or not should send their resolutions on the basis of national and international development, on the unity in the trade unions, to avoid the split which occurred in the U.S.A.

"Resolutions suggesting Congress concentration on a Federal Bill for the right to organise — and a national wide campaign to organise the unorganised — should be sent.

"The Toronto and South Ontario developments to a Farmer-Labour Party should be noted in resolutions and the Congress to endorse such a movement towards independent political action.

"Local initiative must be used to bring resolutions to the Congress dealing with problems of workers in industry and bearing in mind that the Congress is only a national legislative body as yet.

"Be sure to inform us of the number of delegates going from your locality and which of them are Party members.

"The Crowsnest, Drumheller, Coal Branch, Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton Unions and Trades Councils must at least send one delegate".

There are indications that the C.P. will have many of its members attending the Congress meeting from various local unions and Trades Councils throughout the country that are under Communist influence. It is

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the policy of the Communists to avoid a split in the Congress and to urge a working understanding between the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions in Canada.

The National Bureau of the Young Communist League at Toronto at one of its recent meetings gave special attention to the forthcoming meeting of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress. It was pointed out that this year's

meeting of the Congress is of the greatest significance to the Y.C.L. and the youth movement generally. It was observed that the trade union movement is beginning to recognise the importance of the youth movement and is giving it support. It was decided to appoint two members of the National Bureau who will give special attention to the preparations for the Congress meeting. It was further resolved to address a directive to all District Bureaus urging them to prepare resolutions, etc., for the Trades Congress; to call conferences of Y.C.L. members operating in trade unions to discuss the various questions and resolutions that are to be presented to the Congress when it meets. It was also decided to have special or feature articles appearing in the Daily Clarion raising specific problems facing the trade unions and the youth.

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### 3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Dr. Norman Bethune addressed approximately 700 people in the Legion Hall at Saskatoon on 23rd July. He was loudly cheered from all parts of the hall as he expounded the cause of the Spanish Loyalists. He denounced the Red Cross for its failure to do anything to alleviate distress in Spain and was particularly critical of the part Great Britain has played in the non-intervention pact. He suggested that the Canadian people should assume the responsibility for the maintenance of at least 500 Spanish orphaned children who could be cared for in a Spanish village which he proposed to name "Canada". The collection taken netted \$83.

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Dr. Bethune arrived in Edmonton, Alta., on the morning of 25th July and was met at the station by approximately 150 people with H. Gerry acting as spokesman. In the course of the evening he addressed approximately 1,500 people at the Empire Theatre under the auspices of the Edmonton Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy. H. Gerry acted as Chairman and among those seated on the platform were Professor W.H. Alexander,

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Dr. F. Crang, H. D. Ainley, A. M. Herd, J. W. Findlay, Guy Patterson, S.A.G. Barnes, M.L.A., and several leaders of the Communist movement of that city.

Dr. Bethune commenced his speech by raising his right arm in the Communist salute remarking "This clenched fist is the property of no political party but is the symbol of the Popular Front; it represents the unity of all progressively minded democratic people, Socialists, Communists, Progressive Liberals fighting for the protection of international democracy against Fascism".



He severely criticised the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King for his "tour of Germany and shaking hands with a potential murderer — Hitler".

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The [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] Youth Committee to Aid Spain at Toronto, Ont., has sent out letters to many youth organisations in which it is proposed that nation-wide demonstrations & picketing be organised in front of the German and Italian Consulates on 14th August.

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#### 4. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada (A) Textile Strike in Quebec

Approximately 10,000 textile workers came out on strike throughout the Quebec Province on 2nd August. The walk-out was called by the National Federation of Textile Workers at eight plants of the Dominion Textiles Ltd. and Montreal Cottons Ltd., its Valleyfield subsidiary. The strike was called on refusal of the company to enter into a collective labour agreement with the Federation. On 4th August disturbances occurred in front of the company's mill at Drummondville where strike pickets stoned and man-handled the mill Manager.

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#### (B) Steel Workers Strike at Sorel, Que.

For the third time this year approximately 1,200 members of the National Catholic Syndicate of Steel Workers went out on strike at Sorel, on 4th August, tying up operations in five plants. Dissatisfaction with wage scales just announced by an Arbitration Board set up on the settlement of the second strike in June was given as the reason for the strike.

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#### (C) Montreal Hospital Employees Vote for Strike

Day employes in eight Montreal (Que.) French-Canadian hospitals voted on 30th July to call a strike unless the institutions agreed to negotiate for a collective labour agreement. No date for the projected strike was set; this was left to the discretion of the Executive of the union (Association des Employes d'Hopitaux). It is said that members of the union had voted 408 to 2 in favour of the walk-out.

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(D) Miners Strike in Pictou Co. N.S.. Not Resumed

The date set for the resumption of the miners' strike at the Acadia Coal Co. plants at Stellarton and Thorburn, Pictou County, N.S. —23rd July — has passed without cessation of work or incident. The miners are still negotiating with the Provincial Government in anticipation that the Government would examine the company's books and investigate working conditions. The greater majority of the miners appear to be in favour of peaceful negotiations with continuance of work. It is affirmed, however, that unless the Government accedes to the wishes of the United Mine Workers of America the strike will be resumed.

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(E) Textile Workers Strike at Cornwall. Ont.

The strike of 1,700 workers, which was called at the mills of the Canadian Cottons Ltd. at Cornwall on 20th July, remains unchanged.

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(F) Textile Strike at Peterboro. Ont.

The strike at the Dominion Woollens and Worsteds Ltd., Auburn and Bonner-Worth Mills, Peterboro, continues. An offer of a minimum wage of 32¢ per hour to all experienced weavers and 22¢ per hour plus a bonus to employees in the Spinning Dept., which was made by the company recently, was turned down by the strikers. Alex Welch, United Textile Workers Union organiser, is still in Peterboro and is leading the strike.

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(G) Relief Recipients Strike at Brandon. Man.

A number of unemployed working on City public work projects at Brandon are reported to have come out on strike on 29th July in protest against recent cuts in relief grants. A picket of 40 men surrounded the City Hall at 8.00 a.m. in an endeavour to prevent men from going to work.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. SASKATCHEWAN5. Communists Prepare for Campaign in Drought Area

The Communist Party leadership in Saskatchewan is making preparations for a mass campaign in the drought-stricken area of the Southern part of the province. The Centre at Toronto has been requested to furnish \$1,000 to help defray expenses in connection with the project. Through this campaign the Party hopes to build up a movement among the farmers based on the party's united front programme. Several of the Party leaders in Saskatchewan including [deletion:4-5 words] will tour the district in the interest of the campaign, it is said.

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II. MANITOBA6. C.P. in Winnipeg Preparing for Civic Election

The Communist Party in Winnipeg has called a Civic Election Conference for 11th August. A Civic election programme has been issued, which includes:-

- (1) A city income tax.
  - (2) A graduated property tax.
  - (3) Increase in the business tax of Corporations.
  - (4) Taxation of railroad property and Dominion and Provincial Gov'ts. revenue-bearing property.
  - (5) Lower interest rates.
  - (6) Clearance of slum areas and rebuilding with modern homes.
  - (7) Unemployment — whole cost of relief to be assumed by the Dominion Gov't. — administration of relief to remain with the city. Monthly cash allowance for the purchase of clothes, footwear and household utensils equal to 25% of food schedules.
  - (8) Franchise: extension of the right to vote in Civic elections to all residents over 21 years of age. Abolition of multiple voting — one man, one vote.
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### III. QUEBEC

#### 7. [deletion:4-5 words] of C.P. Discusses Local C.I.O. Situation

[deletion:1 1/2 lines] reported that a C.I.O. Organiser from Pittsburg, Penna., had been in Montreal a few days and had discussed with him [deletion:1 word] the local situation in the steel industry. This Organiser had stated, [deletion:1 word] informed the meeting, that the C.I.O. was soon to launch a major organisational campaign in Canada and that he was now making a tour of the larger Canadian manufacturing centres in an

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effort to determine the organisational possibilities and to obtain a general idea on the sentiment of the Canadian workers towards the C.I.O. He also stated that under no circumstances was the local C.I.O. to give up any members to the A.F. of L. irrespective of whether C.I.O. was accused of forming dual unions or not and even if it means going to the extent of breaking away from the local Trades and Labour Council. He expressed the opinion that in less than a year the C.I.O., both in Canada and the U.S.A., will be the only large body of organised labour and that the A.F. of L. will be completely wiped out as a major factor in the trade union field. He promised [deletion:1 word] (local leader of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers of America) the position of C.I.O. Steel Organiser in Quebec at a salary of \$35 per week and \$3 per day general expenses.

Following [deletion:1 word] report a lengthy discussion took place on the question of giving up members to the A.F. of L. in order to avoid a split in the Trades and Labour Council. It was recalled that during the recent strike at the Cuthbert Co. plant the C.I.O. was accused by the leadership of the Moulders' Union of forming dual unions and that a threat has been made by the leaders of this union that they would demand the expulsion of the A.A.I.S.T.W. of N.A. from the Trades and Labour Council to which it is affiliated. In order to avoid further complications it was agreed that all workers employed at Cuthbert's who are members of the C.I.O. affiliate and who are eligible to join the Moulders' Union should become attached to the latter should they desire to do so. The Commission agreed that under no circumstances should the C.I.O. relinquish any members unless the workers have signified their desire to go over to the American Federation of Labor.

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[deletion:1 word] is said to have spent a week in Three Rivers recently organising for the Communist Party.

[~~deletion:1 word~~] has returned from the Soviet Union to resume his former position [~~deletion:2 words~~]

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