

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont.,

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SECRETNO. 889WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Tim Buck, fit and increased in weight "through being able to share for a time the good life of the Soviet Union," returned to Toronto on the 18th April and was officially welcomed home at a C.P. mass rally in Massey Hall on the evening of the following day. "Canada welcomes you home, beloved leader," read a slogan emblazoned on a banner which dominated the stage set to suit the occasion. Buck delivered a lengthy address entitled "Europe on the brink of war" in the course of which he charged that through his agreement with Italy, Prime Minister Chamberlain "has completed his systematic betrayal of Spain."

APPENDICESTABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERALA. Communism.

- Para. No. 1. C.I.O. to form Federation in opposition to A.F. of L.
- " " 2. The Communist Party and the Canadian Seamens' Union.
- " " 3. The campaign in aid of China.
Dr. Heng Chih Tao in Western Canada.
- " " 4. Anti-Padlock Law Conference in Toronto.
- " " 5. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.
- (i) Taxi Drivers strike at Toronto.
 - (ii) Seamens' Union conducts successful strike.
 - (iii) Relief recipients strike at Calgary.
 - (iv) Edmonton Unemployed stage demonstration.

B. Fascism.

- “ ” 6. Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina urged to concentrate on youth.
Attempt to extend National Youth League of Canada.
- “ ” 7. Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg shows little activity.
- “ ” 8. The National Social Christian Party. Movement attracting Italians in Montreal.
-

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- “ ” 9. British Columbia.
Communists at Vancouver hold successful open air meeting.
Civil Liberties League, Vancouver, now definitely established.
- “ ” 10. Quebec.
Montreal Communists worried over withdrawal of Catholics from Youth Congress.
Five Communists convicted in Montreal.
Shipment of Clarte seized by Police.
[~~deletion: 1 line~~]
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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. C.I.O. to form Federation in opposition to A.F. of L.

Leaders of the 38 unions comprising the Committee for Industrial Organization met in Washington recently and voted to set up the C.I.O. as a definite and permanent rival of the American Federation of Labour. As a first step towards forming this new federation, the conference voted to hold a constitutional convention next Fall and appointed Phillip Murray and Sidney Hillman to make the necessary arrangements. The C.I.O., while theoretically only a “committee”, has, since its inception, functioned as a rival body to the A.F. of L. It is generally anticipated that the International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union, one of the founders and most formidable affiliates of the C.I.O., will

refuse to endorse a program for a definite rival federation. It is understood that Julius Hochman, representing the I.L.G.W.U. at this conference, refrained from voting on the motion to call a convention. As the chairman, and dominant figure in the C.I.O., John L. Lewis, is expected to become the head of the permanent organization, if the plans formulated at the Washington conference are carried through.

2. The Communist Party and the Canadian Seamens' Union.

[~~2 1/2 lines~~] at which the trade union situation at Montreal was fully discussed. [~~2 words~~] presented the main report, which, among other things, made reference to the situation in the Canadian Seamens' Union. It was disclosed that, although the leadership of the union is predominantly communistic, little work is being done in the union by way of recruiting members of the union into the C.P. of C. "because there is a move on foot initiated by the shipping firms to smash the union on the grounds that it is being lead and directed by the Communist Party." In defence of the situation in the Seamens' Union, [~~3-4 words~~] stated that the leadership of the union has not deemed it advisable to recruit new members into the C.P. at the present time, because, had they done so, it would have placed a weapon into the hands of the shipping companies and the

[2]

reactionary element of the union. He further stated that it would be dangerous to recruit among the members of the union because of the possible presence of "stool pigeons" in the union who would be able to utilize this as proof of the fact that the union is Communist controlled. In view of the circumstances [~~1 word~~] suggested that it would be best to keep the C.P. out of union activities for the time being.

[~~1-2 words~~] in summing up the discussion and the situation in general, agreed that nothing should be done at the present time to jeopardize the Communist Party position in the said union.

3. The Campaign in aid of China.

Dr. Heng Chih Tao recently addressed a series of meetings in Western Canada, under the auspices of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, on the situation in China. Speaking to about 900 people in the City Hall Auditorium at Regina on April 1st, Dr. Tao predicted a victory for the Chinese against the Japanese. He forecast that out of the struggle against Japan there

would rise a united China which would adopt a form of democracy, "not the sort of democracy that you in the Western World experience, but a democracy of the people, and I mean the workers and peasants." He concluded his address with three Chinese songs, one representing the farmer's song, expressive of his participation in guerilla warfare, a second one representative of the gardener with the hoe, expressive of the thought that Japanese imperialism does a lot of harm, and the third the song of volunteers fighting in North China, exhorting Chinese soldiers to "arise, we who are not willing to be slaves, march on." Two resolutions were given unanimous endorsement by the meeting, one, sponsored by Alderman S.B. East, demanding an embargo on war materials to Japan be effected immediately and the second one demanding the Dominion Government cease following "the Chamberlain co-Fascist policy" by allowing the shipment of material to the insurgents in Spain

4. Anti-Padlock Law Conference in Toronto.

An anti-Padlock Law rally, sponsored jointly by the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy and the Civil Liberties Union, took place

[3]

at the Jarvis Street Collegiate, Toronto, on April 10th, attended by 348 delegates, representing 68 trade unions and 133 fraternal, church and cultural organizations of Toronto with an alleged total membership of 74,745. R.L. Calder, K.C., President of the Montreal Civil Liberties Union, presented the main address in which he stressed the growth of Fascism in Quebec. Calder predicted that "Quebec is starting what will be either intellectual or physical civil war in a few years." "What happens to us today will happen to you tomorrow," he said. Mr. Calder attacked both Quebec's Church "not ecclesiastical but political" and its newspapers. "The Church in Quebec is uniting with a body that stems back to Hitler who has defiled and degraded the Catholic Church, and the newspapers, particularly the English ones, have played a foul and dangerous game," he declared. Asking, "is Communism really a danger in Quebec," he gave Tim Buck's estimate of 1,500 Communists in all Quebec and said that Chief of Police Fernand Dufret had told him that he had been able to find only 1,023 Communists in Montreal. "Communism is but a pretext," Calder declared.

A.A. McLeod, National Chairman of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, informed the conference that since Mr. Calder's tour, practically every leading newspaper in Western Canada has come out flatly for disallowance of the Padlock Law. Others taking part in the debate were very critical of the so-called Quebec Padlock Law and a number of delegates also assailed

Premier Hepburn for attacking the Committee for Industrial Organization and demanded that he disband the special police force formed at the time of the Oshawa strike.

A wide and intensive campaign against the Padlock Law was decided upon by the conference as embodied in the following resolution:

1. "That all organizations represented at this conference be requested to transmit forthwith to the Federal Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice resolutions calling for disallowance of the padlock law as being ultra vires of the government of Quebec.
2. That a petition be prepared and circulated among the membership of the organizations represented at this conference, to be signed by the individual members thereof, and that such members also initiate a house-to-house canvass among the general public for additional signatures to such petition.
3. That all organizations here represented to asked to

[4]

hold meetings, public and otherwise, to fully publicize the real nature and deep significance of the padlock law, and other anti-democratic measures.

4. That this conference publish and distribute literature explaining the reactionary character of the padlock law, explaining also the urgency for its disallowance.

5. That a committee of five, to be elected from this conference, interview all Toronto members in the House of Commons, requesting their support in our demand for disallowance of the padlock law.

6. That further publicity be carried on by radio broadcasting, impressive posters and other suitable media.

7. That all interested organizations and individuals be requested and urged to render the financial aid necessary to carry on the struggle for the preservation of civil liberties.

8. That a permanent committee be elected from this conference to continue and further develop the work begun at this conference, to the end that the current attacks upon the civil liberties of the Canadian may be repulsed, and that the fundamentals of democracy may be effectively preserved and defended by and for the Canadian people."

The conference unanimously decided to continue itself and elected 37 members as a continuations committee to carry on its work.

5. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Taxi Drivers strike at Toronto.

Six hundred and thirteen of the seven hundred and twenty licensed taxi drivers in Toronto came out on strike at 5 P.M. on April 7th, after a week of unsuccessful negotiations with the Toronto Taxi Owners' Association. Taxi drivers from all parts of the city left their cabs at the stand at the appointed hour and converged on union headquarters at 95 1/2 Church St. With the strikers were approximately 100 independent taxi drivers; these, immediately the strike was called, received from the union headquarters placards for their cars permitting them to operate. Several of the taxi owners have since signed agreements with the Toronto Taxi Drivers' Union, leaving approximately 200 drivers still out on strike.

(ii) Seamens' Union conducts successful strike.

Approximately 1,000 seamen, members of the Canadian Seamens' Union, came out on strike in 12 Great Lake Ports on April 11th, "for the right to belong to the union of our choice." The strike was directed chiefly against 7 major companies, which, with their subsidiaries,

[5]

operated approximately 160 vessels, more than half of Canada's Great Lakes fleet. The strike, which was the first major strike on the Great Lakes, ended on the night of April 17th, or 54 hours after it was declared. It was settled on the basis of union recognition which gives the seamen the right to join whatever union they choose and to negotiate with their employers through their union. Agreements were reached between the Canadian Seamens' Union and most of the shipowners, thus establishing the C.S.U. as the dominant organization of seamen on the Great Lakes.

(iii) Relief Recipients strike at Calgary.

About 2,000 relief recipients came out on strike at Calgary on April 6th in protest against reduced food allowances, effective since April 1st. The strike is 100% effective, it is said. On April 9th, picketing of various local relief projects was started and several of those reporting for work were persuaded to join the strike. On Sunday, April 10th, a delegation of 250 of the Calgary Single-Unemployed Men's Union, headed by A. MacAllister, marched to the Palliser Hotel and presented a set of grievances to Premier Aberhart. "I am

doing all I can." the Premier told the delegation; "if you can tell me anything more I can do, I will kick the roof off." The delegation urged work for wages or higher relief allowances.

A proposed march on Edmonton appears to have been abandoned. The strike continues with only a few of the relief recipients reporting for work to carry out their 40 hours monthly relief work.

(iv) Edmonton Unemployed stage demonstration.

On April 8th, over 1,000 persons attended a mass meeting under the auspices of the [§deletion:2-3 words] Northern Alberta Federation of Unemployed at the Market Square, Edmonton, and, after listening to a number of speakers, paraded to the Legislative Buildings to present demands to the Provincial Government. A delegation of 10 was admitted to the Council Chambers while the demonstrators grouped outside the building. The demands were embodied in a brief, which, amongst other things, contained a request that the Provincial Government

[6]

institute an investigation into unemployment conditions in the Province of Alberta; also that the Honourable W.W. Cross, Minister in charge of relief, A.A. MacKenzie, Commissioner of Relief and Mr. Eady, of the Calgary Provincial Relief Office, be dismissed. While the delegation presented the brief to the Government representatives, J.A. MacPherson, W. Ripka of the Y.C.L., Mrs. G. Mason, J. Eggar and ex-Alderman Rice Sheppard, addressed the crowd in front of the building. Upon the return of the delegation, James Hollopeter reported to the assembly that the Honourable Mr. Manning and the Honourable W.A. Fallow had stated that the Provincial Government had appointed a special committee to probe unemployment conditions in the Province. The demonstrators carried banners bearing inscriptions such as "Away with Isolation Camps," "Remove Dr. Cross," "Abolish Soup Kitchens," "Give us Kids a Chance."

B. Fascism.

6. Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina urged
to concentrate on youth.

Believing the present to be an opportune time, [§deletion:1 word] of the Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina, is now urging members of his organization to concentrate on "National Youth League" work. In discussing this

matter, [Xdeletion:1 word] stated, since the Catholic youth organizations have left the Canadian Youth Congress some of the Catholic organizations could be brought within the fold of the National Youth League.

The National Youth League of Canada, according to a letter circulated from its national headquarters at Victoria, B.C., is a national organization of Canadian youth, pledged to the following objects:

1. "Preservation of LAW AND ORDER and GOOD CITIZENSHIP in Canada.
2. Development of LEADERSHIP in Canadian youth.
3. Advancement of NATIONAL IDEALS and a spirit of NATIONAL UNITY among Canadians.
4. Determined OPPOSITION TO COMMUNISM and allied movements and especially Red-influenced youth movements.
5. Promotion of the BEST INTERESTS of Canadian youth, in the fields of social, athletic, and occupational well-being."

[7]

This circular further states that the National Youth League of Canada is "taking the lead in building a national patriotic youth movement in Canada, to replace the radical youth movements seeking to capture the support of Canadian youth.

According to our information this organization is still in its infancy and confined largely to British Columbia. Its national office is located in the Y.M.C.A. building at Victoria, B.C. and its national president appears to be one, [Xdeletion:2 words].

[Xdeletion:2 words] of Victoria, B.C. said to be also [Xdeletion:2 words] of the Canadian Union of Fascists (Canadian Guard) is reported to have made the proposal to [Xdeletion:1 word] recently, that he [Xdeletion:1 word] should take over all organizing work for the youth league in Saskatchewan and in return for such work may retain all monies coming in from the supporters of the National Youth League in the Province of Saskatchewan.

[Xdeletion:1 word] was recently visited by one [Xdeletion:1 word] of Saskatoon, on behalf of one [Xdeletion:4-5 words] of the Ukrainian National Youth movement, to obtain Fascist literature from [Xdeletion:1 word] for meetings of the Ukrainian Youth organizations. Nationalistic Ukrainians in the northern part of Saskatchewan seem to have become active in Fascist propaganda.

7. Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg shows little activity.

The Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg appears to be handicapped because of lack of funds. Due to financial difficulties, the April issue of The Canadian Nationalist did not appear but will be embodied in the May issue; the latter to cover the two months. William Whittaker, chief of the Party, is still ill and unable to attend to the various tasks at his office. Membership meetings, which are being held at 212 St. Mary's Ave., are said to be attended on the average by about 20 persons. No public meetings have been held recently. Rumours spread around Winnipeg to the effect that the Party's membership is in excess of 10,000; that the members are being drilled in the use of arms, appear to be totally without foundation. It is known that C.P. leaders have started some of the rumours and are purposely exaggerating the strength of the Fascist movement not only in Winnipeg, but in other parts of Canada as well.

[8]

8. THE NATIONAL SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY.

The National Social Christian Party is attracting the interest of the Italians in Montreal to an increasing degree, and at meetings of that Party many known members of the Italian Fascio have been observed. It is said that representatives of the two organizations are working together in closer harmony, and there are indications that as time progresses the Italian element in Montreal will lend increasing weight and assistance to the Canadian Fascist organization.

It is of interest to note the Mr. Mario Duliani, who is connected with the Italian newspaper L'Italia, writes articles for the French Fascist newspaper L'Illustration, and in his friendship with Mr. Arcand is seen a link between the French and Italian Fascists in Montreal.

An Italian section of the N.S.C.P., recently formed under the leadership of a young Italian named Fili, had been holding meetings separately, but, having achieved a sufficient degree of organization, it will now join in the meetings of the French Canadian Section.

Some military drilling, without arms, is being carried on at various halls throughout Montreal. It consists of a few elementary movements, and it appears that the primary objects are to instil a sense of discipline and to encourage a smart appearance to fit members of the Party for duty at public meetings. The attendance of these drills has not been great and has caused dissatisfaction to the leaders.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that, in a spirit of ambitious optimism, the framework of the N.S.C.P. was constructed in a too extensive manner by

the founder of the movement. Exaggerated reports are given out concerning the ramifications of the Party and the strength of the membership; but in fact great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining sufficient volunteers, able and willing, to fill the various administrative positions.

The Party optimistically feels that there is cause for satisfaction in enlisting the support of E. Berthiaume, President of the Administrative Council of La Presse, as it is confidentially expected that through him the use of radio station C.K.A.C. for propaganda purposes may be made possible.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. British Columbia.

9. Communists at Vancouver hold successful open air meeting.

The Communist Party at Vancouver held an open air meeting on the Powell Street grounds on April 4th, under the chairmanship of Malcolm Bruce. The speakers were Tom Ewen, C.P., Harold Winch, M.L.A., C.C.F. and A.M. Stephen, representing the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy. The tenor of the speeches protested the foreign policy of Great Britain with regard to non-intervention in the Spanish Civil War. Tom Ewen, in the course of his speech, stated that following this meeting resolutions would be called for from the crowd to be presented to the German and Italian Consuls in Vancouver protesting the part their Governments have taken in the Spanish Civil War. He indicated that this would take the form of a demonstration in front of the two consulates referred to. However, at the close of the meeting, instead of a mass demonstration being held at the consulates, delegations composed of five men and one woman were sent to these places. These delegations in an orderly manner, called at the consulates and left a written resolution protesting the action of the Italian and German Governments in supporting Franco.

The attendance at this meeting numbered approximately 2,000 people.

As previously reported, the Canadian Labour Defence League has been liquidated and its place taken by an organization known as Civil Liberties League, Vancouver, B.C. The officers of this new organization are:

Honourary Chairman	—	[&deletion:name]
Chairman	—	[&deletion:name]
Vice Chairman	—	[&deletion:name]
		[&deletion:l line]

Secretary	—	[&deletion:name]
Treasurer	—	[&deletion:name]
Legal Council	—	[&deletion:name]

[10]

II. Quebec.

10. Notes.

The Communists in Montreal seem quite worried about the withdrawal of the Catholic youth organizations from the Canadian Youth Congress. To counteract the move of the Roman Catholics the Young Communist League plans to cut its representation in the local Montreal congress to two people in order to appease the Catholics. At the same time every effort is to be made to enlist non-communist supporters of the Congress to exert pressure on the Catholic youth leadership in order to win their participation. The Communists realize that non-participation of the Catholic youth organizations would be a death blow to the Communist strategy of using the Congress as a means of penetration into non-communist youth organizations.

The five communists who were arrested as a result of the disturbances arising out of the anti-Fascist demonstration outside the Italian Consulate at Montreal on April 1st, appeared in court on the 14th April and were found guilty on charges of "disturbing the peace." They were each fined \$10. and costs.

On April 11th Quebec Provincial Police halted an automobile in the East end of the City of Montreal and seized 3,000 copies of the French Communist organ Clarte, banned in Quebec Province under the Padlock Law. Clarte is now being printed in Toronto.

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