

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,
September 29th, 1938.SECRETNO. 901WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

On September 25th, approximately 2,500 people attended a parade, followed by a mass meeting, at Winnipeg, Man., staged by the Ukrainian Communist element in protest against "Polish oppression" of the 7,000,000 Ukrainians living under Polish rule. The mass meeting, held in the Civic Auditorium, was addressed by two prominent Ukrainian [~~2 words~~] — P. Lysetts and M. Shatulsky — and two English speakers — L. St. George Stubbs and Reverend J.M. Shaver — who expounded the cause of the Ukrainians in Poland. A lengthy protest resolution, to be forwarded to Ottawa, London, Geneva and Warsaw, and a resolution expressing sympathy for Czecho-slovakians were passed.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. The Communist Party and the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

There is considerable rejoicing in the camp of the Communist Party of Canada at the results of the Fifty-fourth Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, held at Niagara Falls, Ont., from September 12th to 17th, inclusive.

The convention was attended by approximately 550 delegates, representing Canadian trade unions, both C.I.O. and A.F. of L. with an aggregate membership of 170,000. The convention was completely dominated by the Communists who, with the assistance of the progressive element, controlled a voting majority of approximately eighty votes. Many leaders of American Federation of Labour unions went to this convention determined to fight for the expulsion of all C.I.O. unions affiliated with the Congress, but when they arrived in Niagara Falls and began looking into the situation they discovered that any attempt at forcing the issue would prove futile.

On the eve of the convention, September 11th, a special meeting of Communist Party delegates to the convention was held at the Hungarian Hall

at Niagara Falls, at which the leaders of the Trade Union section of the Party laid down the policy and tactics to be pursued in the convention. This meeting was attended by eighty party members, including the following, [~~deletion: 1 line~~], J.B. Salsberg, Charles Simms, Stewart Smith, Fred Rose, Harvey Murphy, Norman Freed and Fred Collins. J.B. Salsberg gave the opening report stressing that the question of unity would be the dominant matter before the convention. He envisaged the possibility of the "reactionary elements leaving the convention when they see that they are outnumbered, and thus force a split in the movement." He cautioned the members present to be always on the alert and put up a real battle in the contention for the maintenance of the present status quo. Speaking of the possibility of a split in the Congress, Salsberg stated that it was not the intention of the Party to set up a dual organization but to start a wide campaign for unity within all A.F. of L. unions in an attempt to place the blame for the split on the shoulders of the "reactionaries." "Our unity forces must

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be made to appear very large and real and we must move boldly and aggressively if we are to succeed in preserving unity for at least another year," he said. He advised the delegates present to mingle as much as possible with the other delegates and convince them that to work for the retention of unity was the only course to pursue.

Of the delegates in attendance at the convention, at least 102 were members of the Communist Party of Canada, representing a wide range of unions, both A.F. of L. and C.I.O. P.M. Draper, President of the Congress, who in former years displayed a profound anti-communist attitude, this year favoured the communists and the progressive element on every occasion. Delegates known throughout Canada as being high-up in the councils of the C.P. of C., including Salsberg, Fred Collins and others, were given every opportunity to speak at great length while many "right-wingers" were often ruled out of order without much provocation. In this connection it is well to note that the communists have been working diligently for the past year preparing for this convention. They have been successful in bringing much pressure to bear on A.F. of L. craft unions and various local trades councils and obtained their support for the "unity" policy enunciated by the Party. Thus the communists and C.I.O. leaders succeeded in having the vast majority of the delegates to the Congress instructed by their locals and trades councils to support the unity programme and other matters sponsored by the Community Party.

The measure of influence wielded by the C.I.O. and communists in the labour movement in Canada at the present time is forcefully portrayed in the vote taken at Niagara Falls on September 15th on the question of C.I.O.

affiliation. The convention, almost unanimously passed the following resolution:

“Whereas a united international trade union movement within Canada is essential for the welfare of the workers of this Dominion; and

Whereas this congress, through its action at the Montreal and Ottawa conventions, did lend its best efforts to maintain a unified labour movement within this country and offered the services of its executive officers of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. in a mediatory capacity:

And whereas we are of the opinion that labour should and must be united and that the door to an agreement between these two factions still remains open.

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Therefore be it resolved that this convention concurs in the desires expressed for the avoidance of division of our movement in Canada as set forth in the resolutions above mentioned.

And be it further resolved that the executive of the congress be instructed to continue its efforts to maintain harmony within the international trade union movement in Canada in compliance with the decision of the Ottawa convention “that action taken shall be on terms acceptable to international trade unions and thus avoiding any disregard for or defiance of their laws and policies.

And be it further resolved, that we call on our executive to exert every effort to the end that we may again have a unified labour movement on the North American continent to explore every possible avenue and lend their fullest support to all moves in this direction.”

Altogether, forty-six different resolutions were before the convention, submitted by various unions and trades councils throughout the country, all of which reflected the unity policy of the Communist Party of Canada. The resolutions committee, to whom these resolutions were referred for consideration, brought in a substitute resolution which is quoted above.

On September 12th, amidst cries of “quarantine the aggressors,” the convention pledged its support to Spain and China and their governments. The convention called on all Canadian unionists to take the lead in organizing the people in an extensive boycott against all goods coming from Japan, Italy and Germany. This resolution was framed by the Resolutions Committee of the convention and embodied the recommendations of eighteen other resolutions submitted to the Congress by unions and trades councils from various parts of Canada. “We condemn the unprincipled and unprovoked attacks and invasion of China and Spain by Fascist hordes as a violation of international law and treaty rights, and as a crime against nations that desire only to live in peace

with other nations," the resolution said. A lively discussion preceded the passing of the resolution with the communists taking the lead. J.A. (Pat) Sullivan, (communist) of the Canadian Seamen's Union, Montreal, asked the delegates to take some steps to prevent shipment of war materials to "aggressor governments." "Let this resolution go the full length and tell the longshoremen, the seamen and teamsters that the whole trade union movement is behind them and they should down their tools when they are asked to ship war materials," he declared amidst

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applause and cheers. Alex Welch, [deletion: 1 word] of Toronto, emphasized that "we must make it clear to our government that we demand action to help the people of Spain and China."

On September 16th the Congress passed a resolution demanding that Parliament be called without delay to decide Canada's policy in the event of a European war. In this connection it is interesting to note that the debate on this resolution was conducted almost exclusively by the communists, led by J.B. Salsberg, Fred Collins, Alex Welch, Sam Shearer and Richard Steele.

There were approximately 265 resolutions before the convention. Of these, as already stated, forty-six called for unity; fifteen denounced the Padlock Law of Quebec; fifteen dealt with the unemployment problem and twenty-one demanded the "right to organize."

The Communist Party delegates attended every session and acted in a very disciplined manner throughout the convention. This was observed even by P.M. Draper, who is said to have later remarked that he can readily understand why the communists and progressive delegates could dominate this convention. He is also reported to have remarked that "unless the trade union movement learns a few lessons from the actions of the C.P. delegates it will be lost." The strength of the communist influence is reflected in the vote on the election of the representatives to the next A.F. of L. convention. The communists choice was Russell, who received 283 votes as against 175 cast for his opponent White, the choice of the "reactionaries."

The influence or control exercised by the communists proved quite annoying to the "right-wingers", but the latter could do little about the matter. What seemed to annoy them more than anything else was the fact that they could not have any measures passed without first obtaining the opinion of the leading C.P. members, and if the C.P. delegates did not agree with any suggestions made by them the matter was not even introduced on the floor of the convention.

Communist leaders seemed very much concerned about the health of Mr. Draper. Should Mr. Draper become too ill, which it is thought will force him

to resign, the communists are afraid that Mr. Tom Moore will replace him. A change of this nature, [deletion:2-3 words]

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[deletion:2 words] after the convention, would be disastrous to the communists and would give those considered by the communists as the "right-wing" element a majority in the executive committee of the Congress. [deletion:3-4 words], Tallon and Bengough constitute the "reactionary" group within the Congress Executive, while Mr. Draper and Morrison are looked upon as "progressives" with Trepanier of Montreal as neither here nor there. It is said on good authority that Mr. Morrison worked in close co-operation with the communist leaders during the convention, keeping them posted in advance of any moves that were contemplated.

The Communist Party, not satisfied with the victory achieved at the Niagara Convention, will immediately launch a campaign within all unions, urging them to pass resolutions praising the decisions of the convention on the question of unity and urging the executive committee of the Congress to do all in its power to preserve this unity as long as possible.

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2. Final Results of "Slobodna Misao" Campaign.

The final results of the recent "press campaign" conducted by the Croatian Communists throughout Canada on behalf of their organ "Slobodna Misao," as published in the 22nd September edition of this paper, are as follows:

<u>QUOTA</u>			<u>RESULTS</u>		
<u>New Sub-</u>	<u>Renewals</u>	<u>Donations</u>	<u>scriptions</u>	<u>Renewals</u>	<u>Donations</u>
<u>481</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>\$1,410.</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>\$3,069.53</u>

The above table would indicate that the campaign was highly successful.

3. Communists throughout Canada demonstrate against Mr. Chamberlain's policy in European Crisis.

The Communist Party of Canada at meetings and in its press, violently attacks Mr. Chamberlain for "betraying Czechoslovakia and exhorts Great Britain and France to prevent by force of arms Hitler's attack on Democracy."

Exaggerating reports of demonstrations in England advocating the dismissal of Mr. Chamberlain and assistance to Czechoslovakia, fill the front pages of the party's organs, calculated to create the impression that such is the general feeling in Great Britain.

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(i) Demonstrations at Toronto.

On September 16th, the Young Communist League at Toronto held a meeting at the corner of College Street and Brunswick Avenue protesting German interference in Czechoslovakia. An effigy of Hitler was "hanged" on a limb of a tree amidst shouts of the crowd and the speakers, including Dave Kashtan, National Secretary of the Y.C.L. of Canada, scored the Chamberlain policy of appeasement, urging that the Canadian Government "must" immediately take action against German aggression in Czechoslovakia.

The Communist Party at Toronto held a peace rally in Queen's Park on September 24th, attended by approximately 750 people. A.E. Smith presided and the speakers were Fred Collins, J.B. Salsberg, Stewart Smith and Walter Dent, all of whom bitterly assailed Premiers Chamberlain and Daladier for their policy in the present European crisis. A call for unity of the working class in support of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union was made by Stewart Smith. A resolution addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada demanding that the Canadian Government stand by Czechoslovakia against Hitler, was passed by the meeting.

A.E. Smith, in closing the meeting, stated that the workers would attempt to transform any war into a civil war for the overthrow of capitalism.

(ii) Demonstrations at Winnipeg.

A meeting called hurriedly by the Communist Party of Canada on the Market Square at Winnipeg on the evening of September 23rd, to protest Germany's interference in Czechoslovakia was attended by approximately 1,200 persons. Before permission was granted to use loud speakers from the City offices, the C.P. leaders had to promise that no effigy of Hitler would be burnt. The speakers were W. Ross, who spoke on the Youth Congress and its contribution to peace; Anne Buller, who dealt on the solidarity of the democratic front against fascism; Leslie Morris, who spoke on the crisis in Europe and the part the U.S.S.R. in playing in the "struggle for peace;" J. Forkin, who eulogized the C.P. of C. and made an appeal to all workers to join it. A short

speech was also made by R.C. McCutcheon, Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council,

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who, although speaking as a private individual, said that he felt that the Trades and Labour Council, had it known about the meeting, would have delegated him to speak on their behalf. He spoke on the resolutions passed at the recent T. and L.C. of C. convention, dealing with labour unity in Canada, opposition to fascist aggression and the demand for a declaration of a collective security policy on the part of the Canadian Government. In adjourning the meeting, M. Sago announced that a meeting would be held by the Council of National Groups in the Walker Theatre on Sunday, September 25th, with Mayor John Queen, Professor Osborne, L.St.G. Stubbs, Leslie Morris, Dorothy Cox, Mr. Schneider, W. Gregora, a Czech. member of the C.P. of C., as speakers.

The Council of National Groups, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~], especially created to interest persons of all nationalities in the anti-fascist movement, held a public meeting in the Walker Theatre on Sunday, September 25th, with a capacity audience in attendance. The meeting, advertised as a "Public Peace Rally" to discuss the Czechoslovakian crisis, was presided over by S. Sawula and addressed by Mayor John Queen, Mrs. Jessie McLennan, Professor Osborne, Joseph Romato, a Czech., M. Schneider, Secretary of the German Democratic Federation, W. Gregora, Secretary of the Czech Cultural Club, R.C. McCutcheon, Dorothy Cox, L.St.G. Stubbs, Mr. Gauvin and Leslie Morris of the C.P. of C. The speakers were unanimous in their condemnation of the policy pursued by the British Prime Minister and "the inhuman brutal and wild beast tactics of Hitler." Mr. Stubbs, in his usual dramatic manner, was most forceful in his condemnation of Mr. Chamberlain. Leslie Morris dealt largely with the dangers of fascism in Canada and the Japanese invasion of the Pacific Coast.

The Communists were present in full force. A resolution was presented by Leslie Morris at the close of his speech, addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada, urging him to summon Parliament and to announce his policy in the present crisis; the resolution also placed the meeting on record as being in full sympathy with the Czech Nation.

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B. Fascism.

4. The National Unity Party.

Over 2,000 people attended a public meeting of the National Unity Party at the St. Jacques Market Hall on Amherst Square at Montreal on the 20th of September. About 200 Legionnaires were on duty along the stairways and around the hall.

The meeting was presided over by Marius Gatien, who, after attacking the evils of Jewry and democracy, introduced the first speaker, Daniel O'Keefe, supposedly chief organizer of the Party for New Brunswick. Speaking in French, O'Keefe accused democracy of incompetence and asserted that the vital issue of the day and in which Canada might be involved, was the crisis precipitated by the demands of the Sudetan minority of Czechoslovakia. "To Canadians there is a more important question to talk about and that is the Canadian minority in Canada," he declared.

F. Chabot spoke in the name of the working class, asserting that the people of Canada, feeling the pangs of hunger, are now clamouring for one Canadian who would someday deliver this country from all its misery. This man, he said, has now risen in the person of Adrian Arcand who has given new hopes to all Canadians. "We must do our part in organizing the N.U.P., leading it on to victory," he said.

The next speaker was Jos. C. Farr of Toronto who boasted of the progress of the Party throughout Canada. He stated that the last Province, Prince Edward Island, has now joined the Party with four organizers at work sponsoring the movement there. He boasted of the progress made in British Columbia under the leadership of Thomas, saying that all the other organizations of the Province have joined the Party. Alberta, under the leadership of Birrel, he said, was progressing steadily, and Saskatchewan, under Schio, is also advancing favourably. In Manitoba, he declared, the leadership has been handed over to John Cole, and that in one of the provinces (Saskatchewan) of the West the Canadian Union of Fascists had joined the party, bringing 450 new members to it. Speaking of Ontario, he said that organizers had been placed in the most important cities, Kingston included. The latter, he declared, has now a membership of 350 and he thought it might be a good idea to notify the Mayor of Kingston to that effect by wire. Farr also informed the audience that the people of the United States of

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America too seemed to show enthusiasm for the Party. Many letters from there had been received at Party's headquarters asking "For God's sake why can't we have someone start the same movement here."

Adrian Arcand spoke last, indulging in the usual tirade against Jewry and democratic government. He was very bitter against the Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe, accusing him and his colleagues of leading this country towards ruin. He charged that Czechoslovakia was the "catspaw of International Jewry" and that it was fostering war in Europe to bring about revolution and the "Republic of the World sought by Red Moscow." Democracy, he said, is allowing "our children to go without bread and clothing while a number of foreign capitalists are reaping all the gains." He charged that \$1,200,000,000. was paid out in dividends in Canada to foreign capitalists. All this, he said, will be abolished when the N.U.P. comes into power; "dividends will be had but investors will not take them out of the country; they must be spent here and any large sums of money not invested in Canada within thirty days will be confiscated." He also dealt with the question of Canadians participating in any future war. He asserted that no Parliament will have the right to dictate whether Canada is to fight or not; a plebiscite will be demanded.

The meeting ended at about 11.00 p.m. without any disturbances having taken place. It is said to have been an enthusiastic meeting.

On September 25th the National Unity Party held a meeting of officers of the party with approximately 300 of them in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint the officers with the new system underlying the re-organization of the Party in the Province of Quebec. The speakers were Marius Gatién, Mr. A. Arcand, Director of the Women's Section, H. Clément, P. Papineau and Adrian Arcand himself, the latter being the principal orator.

Adrian Arcand, although praising the work accomplished so far, thought that French Canadian members of the Party lacked certain qualifications necessary to ensure success. He stressed the necessity of personal contact, remarking that although the Party enjoys the support of a considerable section of the public it lacks personal touch or contact. He pointed to the success of the two last public meetings

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held at the Maisonneuve and St. Jacques Market Halls as proof that public opinion is with the movement. The main shortcoming of the Party, as he saw it, was that if there should be a further flood of members into the ranks of the Party there might not be a sufficient number of men to act as leaders. "Generals without an army are of no value and an army without generals is also without value," he declared. Arcand told the meeting that as Mexico City is the capital of the anti-fascist movement in North America, Montreal is the seat of the anti-communist movement. He said that according to a confidential communication received, Adrian Arcand was nominated chief of the anti-communist movement in North America. This communication, he said, was signed by "Le

Conseil des Quinze" (The Council of Fifteen). He further said that Quebec was now technically organized but the other provinces were not and officers of responsibility will have to be chosen soon to see that the other provinces are put on the same footing. He announced that he, himself, would spend two months on a tour of the other provinces shortly. He also announced that the Canadian Union of Fascists had joined the Party in Saskatoon.

Information received from Saskatchewan confirms the statement made by Arcand in respect of the merging of the Canadian Union of Fascists. [~~deletion:2 words~~] leader of the Western Section of the Union of Fascists, has been appointed secretary of the N.U.P. for Saskatchewan, with [~~deletion:1 word~~] remaining as provincial organizer.

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