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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, has suddenly left for Europe, presumably to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. He was accompanied by Earl Browder, leader of the American Party. The Communist Press announced that Buck proceeded to Europe to obtain first hand information on the trend of events resulting from the Czechoslovakian crisis.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

I. Communist agitation and demonstrations against the Munich Agreement.

Communist propaganda continues to center around the Munich Pact. Leading articles and editorials under screaming headlines featuring “the betrayal of Czechoslovakia” continue to fill the pages of the communist press and inflammatory speeches protesting the “capitulation to Hitler” make up the

agenda of the numerous meetings staged throughout the country under communist auspices.

The Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, in its October 3rd edition editorially warns that "the fight has just begun." It says in part:

"A storm of protest is sweeping the world. The people are expressing their horror and deep indignation against the terrible betrayal of Czechoslovakia by Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier....

Chamberlain ignored the British people, the House of Commons and his own Cabinet!

Daladier did the same thing in France.

Yet these two political scoundrels have the brass to pose as spokesmen for the French and British peoples. The truth is that they speak and act for a very small, but extremely powerful and desperate group of national traitors — munition kings, financiers, bankers and speculators. These ultra-reactionary circles of Paris and London oppose the 40-hour week, force millions to suffer malnutrition — but do everything in their power to bolster up the fascist regimes of Germany and Italy.

They have betrayed Czechoslovakia, Austria, Ethiopia, China and Spain to the fascist bandits of the Berlin — Rome — Tokio axis....

They have done this, they strengthen the offensive against the people of Britain and France because they are mortally afraid of the masses, are willing to go any limit to crush the people.

Munich was a sign-post on the road which Chamberlain has plotted out to lead fascism in Britain and France, to war against the Soviet Union....

The people of Czechoslovakia know that Chamberlain and Daladier do not represent the real Britain and France. They know that the Nazi cut-throats and thugs who are now looting and raping the Sudeten regions are in no way symbolical of the great German people....

Reactionaries in Canada are working hard to identify our country with Chamberlain's pro-fascist betrayal. The Canadian people are honour-bound to repudiate this latest rascality. Canada was never in favour of dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, of bolstering up the murderer Hitler.

The Canadian people, in no uncertain terms, spoke out for a firm, collective stand against fascist aggression.

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Premier King has not received any mandate from the Canadian people to congratulate Mr. Chamberlain on the sell-out of Czechoslovakia and peace....

The last words have not yet been spoken. The fight has only begun! Labour and the progressive people of each and every country have yet to give their answer. Their answer will be — HALT THE BETRAYALS!

We in Canada, with redoubled vigour and confidence must fight still harder to bring about a change in the foreign policy of Ottawa. Trailing behind Chamberlain, Prime Minister King is violating the mandate of Canada's people. Canada gave him no right to endorse the Munich Pact.

Parliament must be summoned to discuss the critical situation which has been worsened by Munich. The concessions to Hitler bring general war closer, war from which Canada cannot escape....

The Soviet Union stands staunchly, the bulwark of peace and fraternity. In every country the people are demonstrating their will to unite and fight for peace....

The Munich betrayal is not the end. The fight has just begun."

The above clearly portrays the policy pursued by the Communist Party for the moment. Similar editorials and leading articles reflecting this policy have graced the pages of the other Communist Party organs published in the various languages throughout Canada.

Analysing the recent European crisis The People's Advocate (Vancouver) in an editorial appearing in its October 7th edition, contends that "the war scare was a gigantic piece of stage-play designed to bring the world to such a state of nerves that the people would accept almost anything to avoid the war which at no time was imminent had the democracies held firm." The Soviet Union is held up as the greatest defender of democracy and as the only honourable government "while the perfidious Chamberlain and Daladier have covered themselves and their governments with infamy."

In conclusion the editorial warns:

"But their triumph will be short lived. The people will speak the last word and, above all, the Soviet Union still lives."

The Jewish Party organ, Der Kampf, for October 7th in a lengthy editorial headed "The Jews and the Munich Betrayal," calls upon the Jewish working masses to condemn the capitalist governments of the world and to give their support to the International Workers' Movement.

[3]

Many "protest rallies" have been held throughout the Country. Some of these gatherings are summarized hereunder.

(a) Vancouver.

[~~deletion:2-3 words~~] Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Vancouver held a mass meeting at Powell St. Grounds on September 25th with

5,000 people in attendance. George Black presided and the speakers were Charles Stewart of the Street Railway Men's Union, Sam Shearer, Ted Gunrod, a Spanish War Veteran, A.M. Stephen, local leader of the League for Peace and Democracy, Fergus McKean and Morris Rush of the Young Communist League. Charles Stewart and Sam Shearer, both members of the C.P. and delegates to the Fifty-fourth Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada held at Niagara Falls recently, eulogized the actions of the Congress at this convention. Ted Gunrod spoke of the fight waged by Loyalist Spain against "world fascism" and demanded arms for Spain. A.M. Stephen bitterly denounced the Chamberlain policy, calling upon the democracies of the world to unite in a common fight against fascism. He urged the common people of Canada to fight fascism and supply the League for Peace and Democracy with funds in order that fascism may be defeated. Fergus McKean also spoke on fascism and on the policy of Mr. Chamberlain, condemning the latter in no uncertain terms.

The meeting was held in protest against Mr. Chamberlain's policy and before adjourning it passed a resolution demanding that the Prime Minister of Canada call a session of the Canadian Parliament to formulate a policy pledging support to Czechoslovakia. The meeting also resolved to support the Czechoslovakian Government and to continue to fight against fascism in Canada.

(b) Edmonton.

The Communist Party at Edmonton held a public mass meeting in the Market Square on the 25th of September. The subject under discussion was "Will it be War? Stand by Czechoslovakia!" Otto Willberg, a German who acted as chairman, condemned the policy of Hitler and criticized the "pro-fascist" policy of the British and Canadian Governments. J.A. MacPherson and Lawrence Anderson were the main speakers. They condemned the "complicity of Chamberlain and Daladier

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with, and their surrender to, the aggressor." A resolution addressed to the Federal Government condemning the British and Canadian foreign policy and urging the Dominion Government to call Parliament to take action against the "aggressors" was passed. The chairman, before adjournment, announced that the local progressive organizations will be asked to call a joint mass meeting and demonstrations to protest the policy of Prime Minister Chamberlain and Prime Minister MacKenzie King.

(c) Calgary.

Approximately 500 people attended a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada in the Variety Theatre at Calgary on October 2nd. Pat Lennihan and J.A. MacPherson spoke on the Four Power Pact and the Anglo-German Treaty. Mr. Chamberlain and Hitler were subjected to considerable criticism and abuse. Russia was depicted as the only country which stands for peace and the only real friend Czechoslovakia ever possessed. Lennihan charged that the whole negotiations were principally concerned with the isolation of the Soviet Union, aiming at the destruction of the Franco-Soviet Pact.

(d) Regina.

Approximately 1,400 people attended a public meeting officially sponsored by the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, together with the Trades and Labour Council, the League of Nations Society, and other bodies, in the City Hall Auditorium, Regina, on September 27th, and listened to a number of speakers discussing the crisis in Europe. Although the C.P. did not openly appear as a sponsor, it was in complete charge of the arrangements leading up to this meeting. Among the speakers were the Rev. Harvey Campbell, J.E.R. Doxsee, C.E. Little, K.C., of the League of Nations Society, W.J. Patterson, Walter Wiggins of the C.P., R. McKenzie and Alex Cochrane, representing the Trades and Labour Council. Two resolutions were passed, both of which were sponsored by the communists through the Trades and Labour Council. The first resolution, originally passed by the Fifty-fourth Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress at Niagara Falls, called for support for Spain and China, while the second resolution dealt with the conscription of man power and wealth in the event of Canada being involved in war.

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(e) Winnipeg.

A demonstration sponsored by the Young Communist League was held in front of the German Consulate at Winnipeg at noon, October 1st. There were only 78 persons in the picket line marching in twos in front of the building housing the Consulate. The demonstration was orderly, the pickets carrying banners bearing such inscriptions as "Deport the Nazi Spies;" "War or Peace, ask the Canadian Youth;" "The Scandal of the Four Power Pact;" "Betrayal of Czechoslovakia."

On October 2nd a communist inspired meeting of Czechoslovakians of Greater Winnipeg took place with one John Zika acting as chairman. Five

speakers expounded the cause of Czechoslovakia, censuring the four statesmen signing the Munich Pact. A message of sympathy was addressed to President Benes and his government, appealing to them to stand fast in defence of the present republic of Czechoslovakia and against any further aggression of fascism. A. Toman characterized the authors of the Munich Pact as "the four racketeers," while Steve Lesso, another speaker, compared the conversations between Chamberlain and others on the Sudeten situation with an auction sale. "Hitler," he said, "invited three other auctioneers to sell Czechoslovakia." "Chamberlain will pay dearly for his auctioneering," he added. Other speakers made references to the 7,000,000 Ukrainians living under Polish rule. One speaker thought that shooting would be too good for Hitler.

(f) Fort William.

At Fort William the Communist Party held a mass meeting in the City Hall Auditorium in protest against the "betrayal of Czechoslovakia." The speakers were Charles Weir, George Cotter, Otto Duskocil and a woman from Nolalu named Naomi Salomi. A resolution was passed urging the Canadian Government to disassociate itself with the "Chamberlain policy."

(g) Toronto.

On October 3rd the Communist Party at Toronto held a meeting at Massey Hall to protest against "the betrayal of Czechoslovakia by Chamberlain." Robert Minor of New York, member of the Central Committee of the C.P. of the U.S.A. and Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto were the main speakers.

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Speaking of the Munich agreement Minor declared:

"It was not a pact of peace but a conspiracy for war that was signed in Munich but despite the gloom that has been spread from there we declare that we must, that we shall undo this crime. The whole betrayal was engineered by the British Cliveden clique, of which Chamberlain is a representative in open collusion with Hitler."

Denouncing the agreement reached at Munich as a betrayal, not only of Czechoslovakia but of the British Empire, Alderman Stewart Smith warned the audience that the handing over to Hitler of the Sudeten land has made war more imminent than ever. "Chamberlain," he said, "will go down in history as the man who prostituted the people's desire for peace to bolster up German fascism." Smith was very bitter in his denunciation of the Prime Minister of Canada, characterizing his action during the crisis as "dragging at the heels of Chamberlain." In conclusion Minor urged the Canadian communists on to greater activities in their fight against "world fascism."

The Consul of Czechoslovakia in Toronto, upon learning that Senator Benes was billed to speak in Toronto at a meeting of the League for Peace and Democracy on September 30th, wrote to Senator Benes stating that while the League for Peace and Democracy in the United States might be a bona fide peace organization, in Canada it is synonymous with the Communist Party. On receipt of this letter Senator Benes is reported to have shown same to officers of the League in New York, whereupon copies of the letter were made and one sent to the Canadian League in Toronto. Being unable to secure Mr. Benes, the meeting was consequently cancelled.

(h) Montreal.

Two arrests, including that of Louis Cohen, Secretary of the Friends of the Soviet Union, marked a public demonstration against German invasion of Czechoslovakia held at Fletcher's Field, Montreal, on October 2nd. Permission to hold a "peace parade" was cancelled on the day previous by the Mayor of Montreal who said there was reason to believe that it was inspired by communists and that he "feared the trouble resulting therefrom." The permit for the parade which was revoked, was granted by the police department on September 27th.

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As the crowd assembled at Fletcher's Field circulars announcing the parade had been cancelled and that a meeting was being held in the St. James Market Hall were distributed. This led to the arrest of Romeo Portugais and Louis Cohen who interfered with the arrest of the former. At the Market Hall addresses were given by Rev. W. Orr Mulligan and W.G. McCutcheon, President of the League for Peace and Democracy. The meeting was held under the auspices of the newly formed Committee for the Defence of Czechoslovakia, [deletion:3-4 words].

2. Canadian Volunteers serving with Loyalist Forces
in Spain to be demobilized.

Official notice has been received at the office of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, at Toronto, that the Canadian members of the International Brigade in Spain are being demobilized and will be returned to Canada in small groups.

At a conference of the Committee to Aid Spain, held at Port Arthur recently, it was reported that by October 1st 108 men had returned from Spain,

twenty-five of them seriously injured. It was also reported that over 800 will be returning from Spain in the near future. The communists are endeavouring to secure free medical services from doctors sympathetic towards the movement for some of these disabled men.

[deletion:1 word] of the Rehabilitation Committee of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion is now touring Western Canada in an endeavour to raise funds for the disabled volunteers returning from Spain. He has been replaced as head of the committee by [deletion:3-4 words] who is also said to have replaced [deletion:1/2 line] of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. [deletion:1 word] after concluding his tour will remain in Vancouver.

The food ship which is sailing from the American continent for Spain will not call at Canadian ports because the Canadian Committee in Aid to Spain cannot guarantee goods to the value of \$15,000 it is reported. It is estimated that the cost of bringing the ship to Montreal would be approximately \$3,000.

[8]

3. Communist Party tactics in event of War revealed by Communist leader.

[deletion:4 1/2 lines] "That is what we want, the army. Every comrade must enlist, one communist in a regiment is enough. There will be lots of fascist officers and they will have to be shot. The communists' duty will be to spot these fascist officers and to point them out to the boys: 'here is one of Chamberlain's followers'. Everyone must be made to know that Chamberlain is a fascist. We have received word from Germany that the comrades there are waiting for us. Of course, we shall go to Germany but before we depart we want to be sure and leave the country in good hands. It didn't take very much to shoot an officer from the rear during the World War. It will be much easier this time. We shall have complete control over the army within six months or so."

While in Ottawa, [deletion:1 word] attended a conference of the [deletion:3-4 words] Communist Party at the Ukrainian Hall with 26 delegates in attendance, including [deletion:3 lines]

The main report was given by [deletion:2 words] who confined himself almost exclusively to the Czechoslovakian situation, pointing out the need for

mass demonstrations in support of Czechoslovakia. In the discussion following [deletion:1 word] speech it was pointed out and regretted by some of the delegates, including [deletion:2-3 words], that it will be very difficult or almost impossible to hold any demonstrations in Ottawa.

[9]

4. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) Violence marks I.W.A. strike at Blubber Bay, B.C.

The strike of employees of the Pacific Lime Company at Blubber Bay, near Powell River, B.C., which has been in progress for some months was marked by violence recently when British Columbia Provincial Police broke up a demonstration by opposing labour factions. Striking employees, members of the International Woodworkers of America (C.I.O.) and non-union men still working started a free-for-all on the Government Wharf in which several were injured and which resulted in five arrests.

Efforts to bring about a settlement of the strike are being renewed and an attempt is being made to bring the two opposing factions together. The company's plant is still in operation with more men employed than at the start of the dispute, it is said.

(ii) Purse Seiners Strike in British Columbia settled.

The strike of Purse Seiners, said to have involved over 2,000 fishermen, which began September 16th, has been settled. The Salmon Purse Seiners' Union which conducted the strike is said to have reached an agreement with the company operators which includes recognition of the Union.

(iii) The Single Unemployed Situation at Vancouver.

The recent announcement by the Provincial authorities that the winter camps would be opened again but not until late in the fall and operated on similar lines to last year has been favourably received by the single unemployed. The latter, however, are urging that the camps be opened forthwith.

(iv) Coal Miners Strike at Nacmine, Drumheller Valley.

Approximately 130 men employed by the Red Deer Valley Coal Company at Nacmine came out on strike on September 24th when company officials refused to reinstate two miners who had been dismissed for insubordination. The strike has the endorsement of the United Mine Workers of America.

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(v) Strike of Lignite Miners in Estevan (Sask.) area.

Employees of the Western Dominion Coal Company at Taylorton, Saskatchewan — members of the United Mine Workers of America (C.I.O.) — came out on strike on October 3rd demanding Union recognition. The strike marks the culmination of a conflict of interest between the Saskatchewan Coal Miners' Union, an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of Labour and the recently formed United Mine Workers' Union, affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The bone of contention is that the United Mine Workers of America alleges that the Canadian Federation of Labour organization in the field is dominated by employers and that they are intimidating the men to join the Saskatchewan Mine Workers' Union.

On October 7th the crew of No. 1 Mine, operated by A.C.M. Wilson at Bienfait joined the strike under orders from the officials of the United Mine Workers of America; about 110 miners are involved.

John Stokaluk, field organizer of the United Mine Workers of America, District No. 18, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~] stated that the men will remain on strike until such time as the operators show signs of willingness to open negotiations with his union. Should operators ignore this invitation to open negotiations, a general strike of the whole field is threatened.

(vi) Steel Strike at Trenton, N.S., settled.

The Eastern Car Company's plant at Trenton, idle since August 30th, resumed operation again on October 5th with the return to work of 160 employees who went out on strike in the steel track construction department on August 18th last over a wage dispute. The strike was called by Local 1221, Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers — affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

[11]

B. Fascism5. The National Unity Party.

Although routine meetings continue to be held, there has been a decided slackening of activity at the National Unity Party general headquarters, and the leaders appear to be too fully occupied in maintaining the present membership and their interest in the Party to be able to give much attention to the task of expanding the movement. The Italian members of the Party in particular have been marked back-sliders; nearly all are in arrears with donations and dues, and many of them have not been seen or heard from for some months.

A new arrangement for the collection of dues has been evolved and in the future members will receive with their Party newspaper, Le Combat National, a stamped envelope addressed to Party headquarters. Placing the monthly fee of twenty-five cents in the cardboard coin container enclosed in the envelope and mailing it, simplifies the matter of dues collection, and the officers charged with this work are saved much trouble.

Considerable anxiety has been occasioned in the Party by the rumour that the Liberal Party intends to acquire the two Montreal publications L'Illustration and Le Devoir.

Continuing his self-glorification, Arcand has created a personal bodyguard to be known as the "Iron Guard." Drawn from the ranks of his followers, the members of the bodyguard were chosen for their appearance and stature. Some difficulty was experienced in forming the "Iron Guard" as few members of the Party exceed the minimum height requirement of five feet, ten inches, and the result is said to be not impressive.

In honour of Arcand's Birthday (Oct. 3rd) a buffet supper was held by the N.U.P at 903 St. Zotique St. E, on October 6th. A charge of twenty-five cents per person was made and of about two hundred individuals who attended, seventy-five percent were members of the Party and the remainder relatives and friends.

The Party continues its agitation against the Jews.

[12]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. British Columbia.

6. The Communist Party in British Columbia.

[~~3/4 line~~] Communist Party at Vancouver it was reported that nearly 200 new members had been recruited during the months of August and September without any special membership drive. Most of the new members were unemployed but some gains were also made in the trade unions. The total number of dues stamps sold during September indicates a membership of 1,643 for the whole of the Province of British Columbia. The whole Party apparatus has been set in motion to raise \$3,000 for the Party press, and for the month of October practically every evening has been set aside for meetings, house parties, dances and concerts to raise funds.

[~~2 words~~] is scheduled to leave Vancouver shortly for Nanaimo on the first leg of a combined holiday and a speaking tour of the British Columbia District which will take him as far north as Prince Rupert.

 II. Alberta.

 7. [~~2 words~~] C.P. at Edmonton hears report on Trades
and Labour Congress Convention.

[~~3-4 words~~] the Communist Part at Edmonton held a special meeting on September 30th to hear [~~1 word~~] report on the Fifty-fourth Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada held at Niagara Falls recently. [~~1 word~~] who was a delegate to the convention, reported that of those in attendance over 140 were members of the Communist Party of Canada and these, with the support of the C.I.O. representatives and other progressive delegates, had absolutely no difficulty in controlling the convention. [~~1 word~~] credited the Clarion with being greatly responsible for the unity psychology which prevailed at the said gathering. He dealt at great length with the various "progressive" resolutions adopted by the Congress, most of which were sponsored by the C.P. of C. working through various trades councils and unions throughout the country. In conclusion he emphasized the importance of the work of the party in trade unions.
