

SECRET

**INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN**

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA**

**WEEKLY SUMMARY
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**War Series
No. 33**

NO PLACE FOR SIXTH COLUMNS

Police forces are swamped with a flood of complaints regarding alleged subversive activities. Switch-boards are jammed with messages to the same effect. A well meaning but ill-informed public, particularly veterans and their organizations, are letting their imagination run riot. Old incidents, second-hand gossip, a German-sounding name, a Teutonic haircut, almost anything now assumes a sinister aspect and immediate and drastic action is demanded by the police.

The Right Honourable the Minister of Justice, as well as senior police officers, have issued statements to the press, pointing out to the public that all this is merely hampering the police and is in fact liable to create the very effect desired by the enemy—confusion.

Reports received from police posts throughout the country indicate that peace officers are facing the situation with good common sense. Nevertheless, much valuable time is being wasted. Consideration is being given to enlisting the co-operation of the Press in an effort to abate the nuisance.[1][Page 2 is missing.]

SIXTH COLUMNSAGITATION AGAINST GERMAN-SPEAKING PEOPLE
(Vancouver)

Fifth column hysteria in British Columbia is fostering feeling of resentment among loyal citizens of German birth or extraction and may create the very conditions that are now largely imaginary in that province.

It is reported that:

Conditions remain quiet in German circles but a spirit of bitterness has now been aroused among those who have heretofore strictly followed their Lutheran or Baptist Churches and taken no part in Nazi propaganda, feeling they have been unjustly branded as 5th columnists.

A picture of the German-speaking situation in the Pacific Coast Province is drawn by an observer as follows:

- “1. THERE IS NO ORGANIZED FIFTH COLUMN IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.
2. THERE IS A FAIR AMOUNT OF MATERIAL FOR SUCH A MOVEMENT.
3. THERE IS, AT PRESENT, NO LEADERSHIP FOR SUCH A MOVEMENT.
4. A STRONG LEADER COULD, WITHOUT DOUBT, GATHER THESE FORCES AND BECOME A THREAT.

“Material for a fifth column is found not only among German-speaking people but outside of this class as well. Our analysis produced the following results: Nazis and Nazi sympathizers; Technocrats; National Unity Party followers, Communists and disgruntled and dissatisfied citizens.[3]

“To our knowledge, there is no timber for strong leadership to be found among German-speaking people in Vancouver or in the Provinces of B.C. For possible leadership we should look among the English-speaking people to take the lead. (We class Italians with Nazi sympathizers or National Unity Party.)

“We have pointed out on more than one occasion that it is our contention not more than TEN PERCENT of all German-speaking people, West of Ontario, are of ENEMY birth. The other ninety percent are bewildered and dumbfounded why they should be put in the same class as enemy aliens. It is pointed out that our local newspapers condemned in no uncertain terms the treatment of the minorities in Germany. Now they foster and promote class hatred, the very thing for which we are fighting Hitlerism. To escape persecution is the reason given for migration to Canada, to enjoy the much heralded freedom under British justice. It is pointed out that on the whole these people are an industrious, thrifty and peace loving people. They are law abiding, all they ask is that they be

given an equal chance at making a living with other people of the Dominion, and to be left in peace. The result of this blacklisting of Germans all over the country is not a healthy one. It is quite reasonable to suggest that, if the supposed friends are turning their backs on them, then in the end they will have to turn to the enemy for salvation. We do not wish to appear as alarmists, but it is only natural that one reaps what he sows.

"We suggest that a difference be made between Germans of enemy birth and German-speaking Germans born in other countries. If our papers would hold out the hand of friendship to the latter class, we feel the response would be cordial. To make and hold friends is not by brow-beating methods, but by kindness. This is our observation at this time." [4]

PERSECUTION OF RACIAL MINORITIES

"Persons of present enemy origin suspected of Nazi activities have been interned. Persons of potential enemy origin are known and are being closely watched.

"The overwhelming majority of foreign-born citizens are passionately anti-Nazi.

"Any cessation of labor or diversion of effort to deal with matters that are and can only be handled by the police would be helping the enemy.

"Any persecution of racial minorities in this country is unworthy of our people and foreign to our traditions and our national spirit." (Minister of Justice)

The imperative need of strictest Government supervision of war-time law enforcement, in order to prevent such injustice, is strikingly portrayed in the following letter from a German-born citizen addressed to the Commissioner, R.C.M.Police:

Dear Sir:

Police Chief ----- has advised me to seek your aid and counsel in the matter of a very unpleasant local situation. He is hoping, as much as I am, that if I lay the facts of my case before you, you may be able to help us with a problem that is involving a large percentage of the foreign-born people in the district.

I am of German birth, and this morning I was forced by malicious gossip and rumour to resign my position as assistant manger of the ----- Hotel. As far as local authorities are concerned, my record is clear, but obviously this is not enough. My resignation was not motivated so much by a fear of what the unwholesome talk would do to me as by the fact that the hotel and its manager would continue to suffer as long as I continued as an employee. So serious has the situation become that Mr. ----- has been threatened by over-zealous patriots who accuse him of championing a Nazi spy. [5]

Conditions are just as bad for my wife—a Canadian girl from sound, loyal English stock. My problem is this: What can I do to prove to the people who are so willing to believe every obvious and incredible lie about me that I am a loyal and patriotic Canadian citizen?

My record is briefly this:

I was born in Plauen, Saxony, on November 15, 1904. My father was Julius Willy Geigenmiller, and my mother an Englishwoman, Florence Gee. My father's business interests were in England, where he lived for many years, and I received some of my education there, living with my English relatives.

The situation abroad was so desperate that I decided to emigrate and in July, 1928, I came to Canada. At that time, a campaign was conducted in Europe to encourage emigration to this country. In the period since I arrived in Montreal, I have never belonged to a German or German-Canadian organization of any kind, and I have deliberately avoided fraternising with other German-born people. I can honestly say that I have tried, to the very best of my ability, to be a good Canadian citizen.

My naturalization papers were completed in August, 1933, and my registration number is 108449, Series A. In 1937, I was called back to Germany by my father's failing health, and he has died since that time.

Since the outbreak of war I have not communicated, or attempted to communicate with anyone in Germany, and I have no desire to be anything but a good Canadian. When I had a long talk with him today, Chief----- informed me that rumours are being spread not only about people of German birth, but also about anyone of foreign birth and even born Canadians with German names.

I am well-known in the hotel business, and I know it will be impossible for me to hold a job anywhere else under the circumstances. My status seems that of a man without a country, because people still refuse to look on me as a Canada, and I am no longer a German.[6]

If it is possible for me to enlist for active service, I would be glad to do so, and I believe I am in good physical condition. If this is closed to me, what is to happen to me, and thousands of others like me who are being forced from jobs to nothing for the crime of being born in Europe? We would welcome a system of closer police surveillance.

Surely, in time, the feeling of loyalty to Canada of these foreign-born citizens who are being hounded into the streets will be replaced by one of embitterment. What can we hope for in a country that we are only too glad to call our own?

I know that you must be flooded with requests for information at this time, but I would appreciate an answer, if it was at all possible.

Sincerely,
-----[7]

FASCISM

“MUSSOLINI COMES BEFORE ALL”

(Vancouver)

Italian Fascists throughout Canada know exactly where they stand in the event of Italy entering the war against the Allies. The Fascist oath (according to reliable information) is as follows:

“That I will defend Fascism and Mussolini even with my own blood. Mussolini comes before all.”

In the meantime such Italians may be said to be “good citizens” as they for the most part comply with the Fascist principle that before one can be a good Italian and loyal Fascist he must be a good subject of the country of adoption.

It is reported from Vancouver that:

The viewpoint generally accepted among the Italians is that it is good business to become naturalized and obtain full benefits of citizenship, but in event of Italy going to war against the country of their adoption, then Italy and Mussolini come first.

Apart from the general excitement and growing spirit of bitterness in these tense times, the people of the Italian Colony—including the Fascist element—are behaving very well, and giving no real cause for complaint. The Fascist element believe the day is now close at hand when they will be considered enemies in Canada, but until war is actually declared, apart from confidential Fascist boosting talk among themselves, they are living within the law until the call comes.[8]

COMMUNISM

READY TO CONTROL YOUTH CONGRESS

(Montreal)

Provincial Youth Councils throughout the Dominion are holding conferences during the month of June in preparation for the fifth Canadian Youth Congress which is to be held at Montreal on June 5, 6 and 7.

The Young Communist League is exerting its full effort in an attempt to obtain a strong representation at the Montreal Congress. Although they do not expect to be able to control the Congress this year they are determined to prevent the Congress from going on record as supporting the war.

The Congress agenda this year includes (1) Youth Training and Scholarships, (2) Jobs, (3) Conscription, (4) Higher Wages, (5) Help for Young

Farmers, (6) Health.

Since the beginning of 1940 there have been waves of requests to the Department of Labour, Ottawa, for conciliation boards as provided for under the Industrial Disputes Act. The introduction of these conciliation boards is considered very desirable by the Communist Party trade union leaders as it has been learned that with these boards operating on a "give and take" basis the Union is fairly certain of some concession, however small, thereby strengthening the prestige of the Union. This helps towards an increased membership and ultimately the influence of the Communist Party is strengthened because its members within the trade union concerned having taken the initiative in the dispute receive the credit for the gains.[9]

RALLYING AGAINST SIXTH COLUMN ACTION

Recent Communist Party directives to its various branches stress the need for education of all members on the developments of the "Sixth Column", "British Allied League" and other national organizations. Attention is also directed to the imminence of national registration of the Canadian population.

With reference to the organizations combatting Fifth Column activities in this country, the directives state as follows:

"The party must take the offensive against the nationalist organizations. Stickers and leaflets should be put out by every branch, bearing the slogans "No Private Armies", "No Vigilantes", "No Storm Troopers", etc. We must get busy on this issue at once and conduct a vigorous campaign against these organizations, in order to protect the C.P. and ourselves. Every member must be responsible for putting up a number of stickers weekly. Resolutions must be passed in trade unions and organizations to offset mob violence."

A campaign as outlined above would no doubt tend to aggravate the situation rather than discourage the organizations who are taking up the fight against the subversive elements.

LOSING FAITH IN REVOLUTION IN GERMANY

(Vancouver)

Stories of war sabotage, particularly on railroads, by Communists in Germany are losing credit with their brothers in Canada. Executive members of the C.P. on the West Coast are beginning to suspect that the German Communist is one with the German people in their ambition to destroy the British and French Empires. A recent article by Walter Ulbricht of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany, printed as a front [10] page story in the Party's B.C. organ "The Advocate", contributes to this local enlightenment. The writer declares—

"The revolutionary workers and progressive forces in Germany,

who are, at the cost of great sacrifice, fighting against terror and reaction, do not wish to exchange the present regime for a regime of national and social oppression by British Imperialism and German big capitalists who are subservient to Britain."

This statement has somewhat destroyed the faith of Canadian Communists in the idea that a revolution within Germany was imminent and would stop the German armed forces from actual assault on the British Isles. These people had believed that Communists in Germany were steadily working for the overthrow of Hitler, sabotaging war work wherever possible and were ready to revolt as soon as a rising revolutionary situation was apparent throughout the British Commonwealth.

Despite this awakening amongst our C.P. officials, they will no doubt continue to fashion their policy by directives emanating from Moscow.

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION RUIN THEIR CAUSE

(Montreal)

While the recent convention held by the Canadian Civil Liberties Union in Montreal was a striking example of the effectiveness of Communist Party tactics in attaining results, even the Communists must admit it was a colossal blunder. The convention was too obviously "packed" — at least 85% of the 150 delegates being Communists—and reaction from the loyal elements has all but wrecked the Union.

Sponsored by various organizations with Communistic leanings, the Convention brought about 500 persons from all parts of Canada to discuss such subjects as Censorship, Rights of labour and employer, Law and Civil Liberty, Rights of minorities, Rights of aliens.[11]

The main resolution (adopted by a unanimous vote) was a strong protest against curtailment of civil liberties and constitutional rights and uncontrolled power of the Government to rule by Order in Council under the Defence of Canada Regulations, War Measures Act and the Censorship Regulations. It demanded that a halt be called to the formation of Sixth Columns, that the aforementioned statutes be amended by the Government to restrict and protect the rights of the people and The People of Canada were urged to support the action of the Conference, to organize themselves in a movement to regain their rights and to assist in the defence of those prosecuted for defending their rights and liberties.

Two speakers at this meeting aroused stormy anger by daring to defend liberty at the expense of traitors. As confidentially reported:

(a) H. Larocque of the Pan Canadian Union proposed the annulment of the Main Resolution, stating "many people wish Tim Buck to remain at liberty", (loud cheers by the gathering) "but if this is the feeling of this conference then we have the Fifth Column right here in this hall" (booed and hissed by the audience).

(b) Lou Golden of the Toronto Civil Liberties Association made a motion to bar Nazis, Fascists and Communists from any or-

ganization working for Civil Liberties. He also made a motion to amend the Main Resolution in various ways, but was badly shouted down, and R.L. Calder, K.C., Montreal, interjected "I trust the meeting will treat the amendment with the contempt it deserves". Mr. Golden also started a discussion with, "Is everyone in favour of winning the War?" This was greeted with silence, then a few hesitant "No's" were heard. The question was then called irrelevant and buried under further discussion.

The balance of the speakers were favourably received, most of them speaking on and in favour of the main resolution. On a motion that the outlawing of the Communist Party be condemned, R.L. Calder, K.C. advised that "it would be wise to leave this motion aside the trust the Courts of the land and find out whether [12] they are trustworthy. Furthermore, that by condemning Section 62 it means we are condemning the outlawing of all or any organization whatsoever."

Private discussions were held during the Convention, which were attended only by special delegates, members of the Communist Party. All present at these discussions were as one in their rejoicing over the success of the Nazi offensive, as they regard Great Britain as the main obstacle to the destruction of capitalism. They voiced the opinion that before either side can destroy the other the Soviet Union will act, and that the workers will rebel as soon as they have suffered enough and the necessary revolutionary conditions are created. It is expected that conscription in Canada will cause a revolutionary situation in Quebec of which they hope to take the fullest advantage.

As this Conference was given much publicity in the local newspapers and revealed the complete domination of the Union by the Communist Party, it has undoubtedly weakened the C.C.L.U. (which the Communist Party regard as the only remaining legal organization completely under its control) by arousing public reaction against it and causing many prominent citizens to withdraw their support.

Since the Conference the Communist Party has informed the Union that in return for their continued support it will be necessary for the Union to stop Jean Charles Harvey, editor of "Le Jour" and executive member of the Union, writing articles against the Party and on danger from Fifth Columns. To this is added a recommendation that should Harvey refuse to comply with this request he be expelled from the Union.

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