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LABOUR UNREST

**STORMY CONVENTION OF CANADIAN CONGRESS OF
LABOUR**

Considerable turmoil and disunity marked the second convention of the Canadian Congress of Labour, held at the Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, September 8 - 12. From the first it was apparent that several of the C.I.O. affiliated unions were determined to embarrass and obstruct the policies of President A. R. Mosher, his executive officers and the majority of the 500 delegates present. Particularly conspicuous in this regard were the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, the United Automobile Workers of America and the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, who submitted resolutions calling for all-out aid for U.S.S.R., the repeal of P.C. 7440 and the immediate release of all interned labour leaders. The agitators included E. E. Leary (Dockyard and Shipyard Workers' Union, Vancouver); George Harris (U.E.R. and M.W.); Harold Pritchett (International Woodworkers of America); James Robertson (Labour Council, Vancouver Island).

Two significant incidents occurred early in the convention. First, Mrs. Dorise Nielsen, M.P., addressed the delegates, arousing them to greater efforts in combating "unjust" war-and-labour regulations and in demanding the liberation of trade unionists; Second, a group of Nova Scotia coal

miners paraded with banners around the Hall. Both Mrs. Nielsen and the miners got vociferous applause.

Interned Communists

Considerable excitement arose over the many resolutions calling for the repeal of Sections 21, 39 and 39A of the Defence of Canada Regulations and the release of "all anti-Fascist workers....with special reference to Pat Sullivan, Jack Chapman, Charles Murray, C. S. Jackson and Bruce Magnusson."

George Harris, leading the defence of Jackson, read a long statement written by J. L. Cohen, K.C., which purported to show that Jackson had been interned without just cause or legal trial.

The Government, continued Harris, thus admits for the first time that Jackson was interned for participating in strikes, and he wanted to know if there was any great division between the shooting of trade unionists in [1] Norway and interning trade unionists here. "We must combine all unions in demanding the liberation of Jackson", he said.

Willard Bliss (U.E.R. and M.W.) vigorously supported this move. The internment of Jackson had been a severe blow to the United Electrical Workers, and a serious miscarriage of justice. "We believe that it was no accident that the R.C.M.P. picked him up when he was fighting for justice. These are the same tactics as employed by Herr Hitler. It's the incipient working of Fascism. We appeal to those who have had their leaders taken away and are going to have them taken away, to combine to take action to secure the release of all the trade union leaders of Canada—unqualified unity in this one matter, releasement."

George Warn (same union) endorsed these views and declared that "Jackson was in no way responsible for the General Electric going out on strike illegally."

E. E. Leary was the most dramatic, asserting that he was going to "fight to the last drop of my blood" to have these trade unionists liberated. He said, "you don't have to be a Communist to get in a camp. You only have to fight for labour. You have no democratic rights in Canada today when you can be thrust into a filthy concentration camp. Tomorrow I may be in a camp alongside Brother Jackson and all the other great labour leaders. Tomorrow it may be Mosher (the president) or Dowd (secretary-treasurer)."

M. M. Maclean (Executive Board, C.C.L.) courageously exposed the subversive elements in their true colours. Many of these resolutions and words used in debate carried the brand of the Communist Party, he said. For instance, those formerly called Communists were now labelled "anti-Fascists" and "labour-leaders". "We should recognize what is doing in this convention and I welcome this opportunity to make an issue of it now. The motion under consideration calls for a fair British trial and no more. Now is the time for a showdown between honest labour and subversive

elements.”

The cheers that followed drowned out the boos, and the resolution (amended by the Resolutions Committee of its objectionable features) was carried by a probably two-thirds majority.

Nova Scotia Miners

Another prolonged and acrimonious debate arose over the treatment of the Cape Breton coal miners engaged on a “slow-down” strike. The extremists, including most of the C.I.O. delegate endeavoured to force the Congress to pass a resolution declaring its complete sympathy and co-operation [2] with the miners, while members of the Executive and others opposed any interference in a C.I.O. “family quarrel”.

Speaking to a resolution urging “that this convention condemn the action of the Executive (C.C. of L.) in opposing the struggle of the miners for trade union democracy and a better standard of living, and insist that there be no further such interference in the internal affairs of affiliated international unions”, J. A. MacDonald, a United Mine Workers’ delegate, explained that, “We didn’t stop work altogether because we felt we must produce enough coal to bunker the convoys”, that the slow-down was continuing to retard full production by about 40 per cent, and that no early settlement was in sight. He said that he had been a miner for 41 years and that he and his fellow workers felt their democratic rights had been taken away by the U.M.W. executive board in ratifying the Government Conciliation Board offer without consulting them.

Angus McIntyre (U.M.W.A., Nova Scotia), supporting the resolution, said, “Don’t let anyone lead you to believe we want to do anything that will cripple Canada’s war effort, or any part of it. This slow-down is a long story. It has meant loss of production of 1,700,000 tons of coal and 60,000 man-days in 120 days of curtailed production.”

Silby Barrett (Inter. representative U.M.W.A.) explained how the slow-down policy had been forbidden by the parent body and warned the Congress not to interfere with internal affairs of local unions. This, however, did not prevent James Robertson moving a vote of full co-operation with the miners of Nova Scotia; and George Harris shouting, “We must not desert these 10,000 miners to a hostile Government and a hostile company....It seems to be a question of 10,000 miners wanting to get rid of Silby Barrett.”

Patrick Conroy, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, warned that if the Congress “did not keep its nose out of the business of United Mine Workers” the international might decide to pull out from the Congress and the Congress might be wrecked. “Let us not play into the hands of reactionaries”, he pleaded.

The resolution was finally defeated and replaced by a motion to leave the matter in the hands of the Congress Executive to support the miners in the fairest way possible. As outlined by the Committee:

The president of Congress should use his influence with the government to have the former employees reinstated, it was urged, and upon acceptance of this condition the workers should resume full-time production. The next step proposed was that the president of [3] Congress make known to the international union the willingness of Congress to co-operate, and that a joint committee be named to adopt a basis, after investigating, that will assist in improved wages and working conditions.

The opposers demanded a standing vote. The results were 199 for and 156 against—which pretty well represented the strength of the insurgent element in the Congress.

New Executive

By a vote of 283 to 175, A. R. Mosher, Ottawa, was re-elected president of the Congress of Labour. He defeated Nigel Morgan, Vancouver, international representative of the International Woodworkers of America.

Alex McAuslane of Vancouver, regional director of organization for the Congress, defeated George Burt of Oshawa, regional director of United Automobile Workers of America, for the vice-presidency, on a 264-to-193 vote.

Patrick Conroy, Calgary, was chosen secretary-treasurer over H. J. Pritchett, Vancouver Island Labour Council, on a 281-170 division.

The following were elected to the Executive Committee: M. M. MacLean, Ottawa; C.H. Millard, Toronto; Silby Barrett, Glace Bay, N.S.; and Sol Spivak, Toronto.[4]

COMMUNISM

THREE DEMANDS UPON THE GOVERNMENT

(Edmonton, Alberta)

While Communist underground campaigning against the Government has in no wise diminished since Hitler's attack on Russia it has diverted its efforts into less destructive channels so far as our war efforts are concerned. Instead of employing every method possible to oppose an "imperialist war" it is now trying to force the Government's hands in an all-out alliance with Russia which would include, of course, lifting the ban against the Communist Party of Canada and releasing all interned Communists.

The following Communist party directive enlarges upon these three demands:

Dear Friends:

Here are further and more concrete proposals for mass work in the present period. They are for the purpose of taking quick advantage of the new great possibilities for legal mass work.

There are two lines of mass united front legal work which should

be organized at once in each province and locality, and which our leading committees should at once prepare: (1) the formation and organizing of a united movement for assistance to the USSR; (2) a united movement for the release of the interned anti-Fascist and the legality of the CP.

In reference to the first campaign, we propose that in each district committees of a broad nature should be set up at once in all the localities. The aim of this movement is to popularize and build people's unity to compel the King Government to render all-out aid for the USSR, to intensify Canada's active participation in the war against Nazi dictatorship, to use Canada's decisive position in the British Commonwealth to bring all possible backing to Churchill's line of alliance with the USSR, to demand full diplomatic and commercial relations between Canada and the USSR. The concrete forms of agitation on these major issues must be developed with the unfolding of the present situation in Canada and the world, for example it should be possible at this moment to take up the demand that Mr. King goes to London, and to add to that demand the [5] specific proposal that his visit should be for the purpose of negotiating with the representatives of the USSR for a Canadian-Soviet alliance in collaboration with the British Government.

It will shortly be possible to take steps to set up a national committee for this purpose. This does not mean you should wait on that, a local committee of non-partisan nature should at once be set up, to embrace all people and groups who stand for all-out effort to defeat Hitler and who recognize that the Red Army is the main and decisive force fighting the Nazi dictatorship. Such committees should be legal, public bodies, with open offices, and full public status. All manner of activities are possible, public meetings which should serve to form such committees and recruit adherents; the circularizing of resolutions to all groups, the starting of campaigns for raising goodwill solidarity funds for the USSR as a token of Canadian popular support; local petitions on the King Government; the issuance of buttons; special funds raised by groups such as trade unions, etc. In this work the national groups, who have great strength should be incorporated, in addition to the work they do among their own people. Sub-committees of these groups can be set up as auxiliaries of the central committees.

Every effort must be made to get into the press through special press releases to the local paper, interviews (possibly with Mac-Pap vets in some localities), etc.

In Quebec special forms and specialized demands are being worked out to meet the situation there.

In reference to the second campaign, this issue provides the most

favourable means of fighting for the legality of the Party and is directly connected with the people's fight against capitalist treachery in the struggle against Fascism. It should be made a special point that for the Government to continue its ban on the CP and its internment of anti-Fascist fighters and militant trade union leaders, is to deny the positive features of King's statements regarding people's unity against Fascist aggression, and is a continuation of the Chamberlain line of preparing for betrayal of the line of red baiting which is the favourite trick of Quislings.

Existing civil liberties groups should be encouraged to take a firmer stand in the present situation and efforts are required to get these middle class groups to issue statements, advantage meetings, etc. and to co-ordinate their actions in Toronto and Montreal. But alongside this we [6] must concentrate on building a big defence movement through the vigorous work of former CLDL cadres, who must in each place get to groups in the labour movement, arrange petitions, etc. for the freeing of anti-Fascist internees and the legality of the CP. Full use must be made of local popularity of the internees. A really broad appeal and agitation can be worked out in every locality around this paramount domestic issue, which mirrors the whole struggle against treachery in Canada. We must use all of our available forces to organize now the movement of the people for civil liberties. Here, too, certain national leads will be given but at once you must start local work.

Yours truly,
J.W.[7]

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

A new organization has been launched under the above title for the laudable purpose, it is claimed, of helping "the British and Russian peoples to smash Fascism". Its first public meeting, held in Toronto on August 11, 1941, was advertised by leaflets bearing in heavy type:

DEFEND DEMOCRACY IN CANADA!

RELEASE ALL INTERNED AND IMPRISONED ANTI-FASCISTS TO HELP DEFEAT HITLER!

and announcing the following speakers:

Lt. Wm. Kardash, M.L.A., Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dewar Ferguson, Canadian Seamen's Union

Alex. Welch, Textile Workers' Union.

David Goldstick, Barrister.

[>deletion: 1 paragraph: 4 lines]

Approximately 700 people attended the meeting, the majority being Ukrainians and known members of the disloyal Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

A. E. Smith [~~deletion: 1 line~~] president and national secretary of the Council, explained the aims and objects of the Council are to struggle for democratic rights in Canada, to release anti-Fascist and anti-Nazi leaders from internment, to fight Hitler Quislings and Fifth Columnists on the home front and abolish the Defence of Canada Regulations.

William Kardash urged Ukrainians to rally behind the organization in order to urge all possible aid to Russia and the Red Army. Almost all of his entire speech was devoted to praise of the Red Army and in concluding he appealed to Toronto people to join the National Council for Democratic Rights.

David Goldstick (Toronto Barrister) criticized the Defence of Canada Regulations and in particular regulation 21.[8]

Jessie Storrie (Canadian Youth Council) stated that the Youth Council which she represents is still continuing its activity for the release of anti-Fascists and interned labour leaders, and that the Youth Council of Canada is making extensive preparation for the convention of the International Youth Councils which is to be held likely in the month of November, 1941 at Mexico City, Mexico.

Two days later, at a public meeting sponsored by the Ukrainian section of the Council, Kardash devoted most of his long speech to praising the Russian army and in urging all aid to Soviet Russia. He bitterly criticized the Canadian Government for the internment of anti-Fascist and Anti-Nazi leaders and for confiscation of the U.L.F.T.A. properties. He stated that the aims of the National Council for Democratic Rights are to unfurl energetic action in order to free the interned anti-Fascists and to influence the Canadian authorities to restore the U.L.F.T.A. properties and to restore the legality of the U.L.F.T.A.

A. E. Smith explained that the National Council for Democratic Rights originated from the organization commenced in Winnipeg by the wives of the interned anti-Fascist and anti-Nazi leaders. He stated that it was desired to make this organization nation wide and appealed for the release of all interned anti-Fascists.

The Executive Committee of the Council includes A. E. Smith, General Secretary; Miss Beckie Buhay, Assistant Secretary for Organization and Publicity; Mr. Ted Herman, Treasurer; Mr. Newth, Mrs. Hollwell, and Mrs. Freed.

The Committee announces that immediate plans are under way for the enlargement of the National Committee with representatives from coast to coast, the setting up of councils and branches throughout the country, the issuance of literature for widespread distribution, immediate legal action on cases of anti-Fascist internees and prisoners—for mass meetings, and all forms of activity intended to speed the aims and objects of the National Council.[9]

YOUTH MOVEMENT PERVERTS "V" CAMPAIGN

(Winnipeg)

At a recent Canadian Youth Congress at Oak Glade Park near Winnipeg the idea was advocated of carrying on a "V" for Victory campaign as a means of recruiting for the Youth Movement. It was agreed that members of the Congress should use this deception in their respective districts in approaching organizations and soldiers, ostensibly for developing interest in the "V" campaign, but in reality for winning converts to Communism. During the discussion on "methods of approach" so as to obtain donations from professional and business men in good standing, May Isenor of Vancouver remarked "Bring the sucker list into action".

Since then the Youth Movement's campaign has got into full swing. At the recent Canadian Congress of Labour convention in Hamilton yellow leaflets were freely distributed, hearing such slogans as "Youth of Canada, Unite for Victory!", "Extend Democracy! Fair Wages! Collective Bargaining!" "For A National 'V' Day Nov. 11th", "Open A Second Front in W Europe!", "Organize 'V' Clubs!", "Equality For French Canada", "\$1.25 Bushel Wheat", "Abolish P.C. 7440", "Free Transportation For Soldiers".

The inside sheets enlarge upon these slogans, while the back sheet contains a comprehensive appeal to every type and class of youth to join in this "V" campaign.

It is safe to say that the average reader of the text would be deceived into believing that this was solely a call for greater patriotism and war effort on the part of youth, instead of a membership drive for the subversive Youth Movement.[10]

ANTI-FASCIST MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

(Calgary)

[deletion: 1 paragraph: 12 lines]

The Calgary Branch of the Committee got away to a very poor start. There is a lot of dissension in the Party ranks against Lawrence Anderson, and those who are opposed to him refused to take any part in the new movement as long as Anderson has anything to do with it. It was decided that the Committee, if it was to meet with success, would have to be dissociated from Communism, and as a result several prominent persons in Calgary with left-wing tendencies are being contacted to see if they would be willing to accept the public leadership of the Mobilization Committee.[11]

NAZISM

WESTERN GERMANS LOSING CONFIDENCE

(Vancouver, B.C.)

(A student of German-Canadian affairs briefly surveys the present at-

titude of Nazi sympathizers in Vancouver.)

"On several occasions during the past few days I have had the opportunity of studying closely the different ideas of the local German element in regard to the latest news and political developments. The local Nazi element are greatly surprised at the continued and powerful resistance of the Russian Armies and are greatly disappointed that the 'blitz' method has not worked this time. When rumours first started about a meeting somewhere in the Atlantic between Churchill and Roosevelt the local Germans were sceptical that such a meeting could take place because of the menace of Hitler's submarines. However, now that this meeting is an historical fact, they are kind of flabbergasted and believe that no good can come out of it for the Party of the Fatherland. They are still hoping that the wisdom and luck of their Fuehrer will find a way to final victory. Now that Stalin has united with Great Britain and the U.S.A. in common cause against Germany, it is believed that the war will last much longer than was first expected.

"There are few who believe that a revolt of the German people will take place from within. The mentality of the Germans under the stern and ruthless domination of the Party and Gestapo is such that the German people cannot and will not revolt unless heavy and deciding defeats in the field prove to them that the mighty power of the Nazis is on the downgrade. To a certain extent this same thing also applies to our local situation. Just so long as Hitler rules and wins, our Nazi friends remain boastful, but should the tide turn against their Fuehrer they will loudly proclaim themselves loyal Canadians." [12]

INTERMENT

METHODS OF PROCEDURE

There has been some misunderstanding as to the procedure followed in regard to internment of enemy aliens and persons known to have engaged in subversive or anti-British activities. Due to this lack of understanding, it was thought in some quarters that internments were the sole responsibility of the police, particularly the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This is quite incorrect. The duty of the R.C.M.P. with regard to internments begins and ends largely with the investigation of the activities of the persons falling within the categories referred to above. No person other than an enemy alien may be interned except on the Order of the Minister of Justice and, in the case of enemy aliens, on the Order of the Registrar-General of Enemy Aliens.

The procedure followed is simply that when any individual is suspected of having engaged in subversive or other activities prejudicial to the welfare or safety of the State, he is subjected to a thorough police investigation. All evidence of the disloyal actions of the suspected person is obtained and, providing such evidence warrants it, it is submitted to the

Minister of Justice in the form of a Recommendation for Detention. This Recommendation is in turn given consideration by an Inter-Departmental Committee appointed to advise the Minister and if this Committee concurs in the Recommendation of the police, they advise the Minister accordingly, when an Order authorizing detention is issued, pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 21, of the Defence of Canada Regulations.

The person so detained is entitled to object to his detention within thirty days. The detenu is detained in a gaol or other place designated in the Order, pending the hearing of his objection by an Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 22 of the said Regulations. These Advisory Committees (of which there are two) consist respectfully of a chairman, nominated by the Minister of Justice, who has held judicial office (judges have been appointed in each instance) and two other members, similarly appointed, with suitable legal qualifications. The Advisory Committee, after hearing the objection, submit their report to the Minister of Justice with a recommendation for release or continued detention. In some cases, before the Minister reaches of final decision, the matter is referred back to the Police to see if additional evidence is available with the request that, if possible, additional evidence be supplied. The Police then further investigate and submit a supplementary report to the Minister of Justice, who gives the necessary consideration to the case.[13]

The above procedure is followed in the cases of all persons who are not enemy aliens. In the latter cases, if the Registrar-General of Enemy Aliens is satisfied that the evidence produced warrants internment, his Order authorizing internment is issued. There is no provision made for enemy aliens to object to internment ordered under these circumstances.

(Note: Canada's internment methods are closely patterned after those in operation in Great Britain.)[14]