- - -

[41]

McKEAN ATTEMPTS REVIVAL OF C.P. OF C.

Fergus McKEAN, recently expelled leader of the Labour Progressive Party in British Columbia has now apparently engaged in a campaign to resurrect the Communist Party of Canada. The circumstances surrounding his expulsion from the Party and the reasons offered were dealt with in the September 1st issue of the "Bulletin". It will be remembered that McKEAN was reported as stating that the L.P.P. was a bureaucracy and that he denounced the Party program because it did not emphasize the historic role of violence. The question of his expulsion had been brought up at the National Committee meeting held August last at which meeting McKEAN was given the opportunity to defend himself against the various charges laid by members of the Party. During this lengthy defence he expressed his opposition to the name of the Party and among other things intimated that a revolutionary party was a necessity.

McKEAN Issues Pamphlet

Now that McKEAN is outside the L.P.P. he is apparently making a determined effort to create his "new revolutionary Party" and doing so

under the old banner of "The Communist Party of Canada". He has issued a pamphlet addressed to fellow workers and entitled "What the Communist Party Stands For." [Sedeletion: 3 3/4 lines] The pamphlet which terms the L.P.P. a "pseudo-Marxist party" and the C.C.F. "a middle class reform party", is quoted here in its entirety.

WHAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY STANDS FOR

Fellow Workers:

For the past several years the working class of Canada generally, and of B.C. particularly, has not had an independent class party of the industrial workers. As a separate class, the economic and political interests of the working class can only be served by an independent political party whose policies represent the best interest of labor.

Without an independent political party the working class did not, and could not, have a program that would serve their best interests, a program that would strengthen the ranks of labor by building and uniting its forces and advancing policies that would serve the best interests of labor in actual fact, instead of fantastic theories that in no wise represented the real interests of labor.

[42]

The lack of an independent program reflecting the interests of labor has resulted in division and confusion within the ranks of labor. This is particularly true of the trade unions where false policies and conflicting political interests have resulted in many cases in the utmost confusion, dissension and disruption.

The LPP A Pseudo-Marxist Party

The Labor-Progressive Party, posing as a Marxist Party of the working class, has falsely advised the workers that their interests could best be served by collaborating with the employers; they falsely promised full employment, prosperity and security; they falsely advocated that labor's interests could be served by entering the government with the capitalists' own party the Liberal Party in the form of a Liberal-Labor coalition government. The policies of the Labor-Progressive Party have been designed more to utilize the trade union movement to secure notes and force the CCF to agree to a saw-off in the division of parliamentary seats by the hypocritical use of the slogan "labor unity", than to genuinely defend the true interests of the membership of the trade unions.

Dominated by a bureaucratic top leadership which forced the membership to accept ready made policies without any democratic discussion, the LPP, by machine-like tactics, has, on many occasions, succeeded in prevailing upon the membership of the trade unions to accept policies against their own best interests.

Bureaucratic trade union officials have utilized their well-paid positions, not to fight for better wages, working conditions and union security as they were supposed to do. No! The welfare of the membership and its interests have been subordinated to the interests of the LPP in securing votes and utilizing trade union meetings as a battleground for the sake of narrow partisan, political advantages.

LPP Parliamentary Election Tactics

Such policies can only result in further weakening, disrupting and eventually destroying the trade union movement. Because of its disruptive, partisan policies, the LPP can no longer be considered as a bona fide workers' party but rather as a second Social Democratic reform party, copied after the CCF, but competing with the CCF for the working class vote. Blinded by its desire for parliamentary seats in competition with the CCF it does not hesitate to form alliances with the Liberal Party as was done in Ontario, ostensibly to defeat the [43] Tories but which actually resulted in defeating the CCF and electing the Tories.

By entering the B.C. provincial election with 21 candidates and opposing the majority of the sitting members of the CCF, the LPP did not, as it hypocritically claimed, contribute to the defeat of what they called the "reactionary Tory-Liberal Coalition Government."

On the contrary, the LPP by splitting the Labor vote, defeated the efforts of the CCF to elect a majority and did in fact actually assist in the re-election of the Coalition Government.

By such unprincipled tactics the LPP strengthened the position of the capitalist class and weakened labor, for it cannot be denied that a CCF government would have been more susceptible to Labor pressure for reforms of benefit to the working class than a government of Big Business such as the Tory-Liberal Coalition.

Because of its tactics and policies, however, the LPP actually places itself far to the right of the CCF and in some respects even to the right of the Liberals. Hence it is not, as claimed, a Marxist Party of the working class but a right-wing Social Democratic Party, or, as such parties are sometimes called a Liberal-Labor Party.

The CCF A Middle-Class Reform Party

While it cannot be denied that the CCF has a large working class following it nevertheless it is not and does not pretend to be a Marxist working class party. A large proportion of its leadership and of its membership is composed of farmers, small businessmen and professional people with little or no knowledge of the labor movement and its problems. The CCF has a program of reform and extension of public

WAR SERIES: PART II

ownership which in no wise corresponds to a program of scientific socialism; or the kind of program, strategy and tactic necessary to give a correct lead to the working class in its day to day problems. For an Independent Class Party of the Working Class As neither of these self-styled workers' parties, the LPP and the CCF, can serve the needs of the working class, a number of workers with experience in the labor movement have come together and re-established the Communist Party of Canada. [Sedeletion: page 44 is missing]