

*Communist Activities in Canada*

extracts from the theses and statutes of the communist international as quoted in the judgment:

The communist international makes its aims to put up an armed struggle for the overthrow of the international bourgeoisie and to create an international Soviet republic as a transition stage to the complete abolition of the state. The communist international considers the dictatorship of the proletariat as the only means for the liberation of humanity from the horrors of capitalism . . .

Further:

The communist international fully and unreversibly upholds the gains of the great proletarian revolution in Russia, the first victorious socialist revolution in the world's history, and calls upon all workers to follow the same road . . .

Further:

Only a violent defeat of the bourgeoisie, the confiscation of its property, the annihilation of the entire bourgeois governmental apparatus, parliamentary, judicial, military, bureaucratic, administrative, municipal, etc., even the individual exile or internment of the most stubborn, and dangerous exploiters, the establishment of a strict control over them for the repression of all inevitable attempts at resistance and restoration of capitalist slavery, only such measures will be able to guarantee the complete submission of the whole class of exploiters. . .

For all countries, even for most free, "legal" and "peaceful" ones, in the sense of a lesser acuteness in the class struggle, the period has arrived when it has become absolutely necessary for every communist party to join systematically, lawful and unlawful work, lawful and unlawful organizations . . . It is especially necessary to carry on unlawful work in the army and navy, police . . . and persistent and systematic propaganda and agitation is necessary in the army where communist groups should be formed in every military organization. . .

Again:

The proletariat must resort to an armed uprising. . .

Again:

Parliamentarism cannot be a form of proletarian government during the transition period between the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and that of the proletariat. At the moment when the accentuated class struggle turns into civil war the proletariat must inevitably form its state organization as a fighting organization . . . The bourgeois parliament, which constitutes one of the most important instruments of the state machinery of the bourgeois, cannot be won over by the proletariat any more than can the bourgeois order in general. The task of the proletariat consists in blowing up the whole machinery of the bourgeoisie, in destroying it and all the parliamentary institutions with it **whether they be republican, or constitutional monarchical** . . . .

The elementary means of the struggle of the proletariat against the rule of the bourgeoisie is first of all the method of mass demonstrations. Such mass demonstrations are prepared and carried out by the organized masses of the proletariat under the direction of the united, disciplined, centralized communist party. Civil war is war. In this war the proletariat must have its efficient political officers, its good political general staff to conduct operations during all the stages of that fight. Mass struggle means a whole system of developing demonstrations growing ever more acute in form and logically leading to an uprising against the capitalistic order of

government. In this warfare of the masses, developing into civil war, the guiding party of the proletariat must as a general rule secure every and all lawful positions, making them its auxiliaries in the revolutionary work, and subordinating such positions to the plans of the general campaign, that of the mass struggle . . .

If the communists have a majority in the local government institutions, they must carry on a wholesale opposition against the bourgeois central authority . . . Attempt to establish an armed working militia. . . Boycotting the elections or the parliament, or leaving the parliament is permissible chiefly when there is a possibility of an immediate transition to an armed fight for power . . . The communist members shall make all their parliamentary work dependent on the work of the party outside of parliaments . . . The communist member is answerable, not to the wide mass of his constituents but to his own communist party, whether lawful or unlawful . . .

I interject there that this Canadian parliament had reason not very long ago to see how thoroughly that command of the theses and statutes of the communist international was carried out under this roof. Sir William Mulock proceeds with another quotation from the theses and statutes reading as follows:

In order to overthrow the international bourgeoisie and to create an international Soviet republic as a transition stage to the complete abolition of the state, the communist international will use all means at its disposal including force of arms.

Again:

The class struggle in almost every country of Europe and America is entering the phase of civil war. Under such conditions the communists can have no confidence in bourgeois laws. They should create everywhere a parallel illegal apparatus which at the decisive moment should be of assistance to the party to do its duty toward the revolution. In every country where, in consequence of martial law or of other exceptional laws, the communists are unable to carry on their work legally, a combination of legal and illegal work is absolutely necessary.

Is there a single member in this house who today doubts that the communist forces in Canada are proceeding entirely in accordance with the spirit and the letter of this thesis and statute of thirty years ago? In concluding his judgment, Sir William Mulock said this:

The foregoing extracts from the theses and also the *Worker* are bristling with incitements to bring about a change in the governmental and industrial life of Canada by violence.

That, sir, is the offence of which the communists were convicted, and on which they were sentenced to a term in Kingston penitentiary. I have read these extracts at some length to emphasize and to illustrate the very point and nub of the amendment introduced by my leader today. On looking at the present state of the law, I remind hon. members that the state of the law in Canada today is not as it was when those communists were convicted of the offence of inciting the use of force to overthrow the governmental structure of this country. I ask, is the law