

province. Member organizations of provincial federations of labour include local labour councils, local branches of national and international unions and local unions directly chartered by the congress. Provincial federations function similarly to the congress in the appropriate provincial areas except that they do not charter local unions. Member organizations pay a per capita tax for the expenses of the provincial body and are represented by delegates to their conventions. Also, the provincial organizations send delegates to the conventions of the central congress. Officers of provincial federations are elected at conventions of their own organizations.

Provincial federations are designed to afford an opportunity for co-operation and collective action on matters of common concern to affiliated organizations in each province. They apply themselves especially to provincial legislation and their officers make representations to provincial governments, although they also concern themselves with national and international affairs.

4.14 *Canadian autonomy* The question of Canadian autonomy was discussed at length in evidence given by Dr. John Crispo. With regard to relations between the C.L.C. and the A.F.L.-C.I.O., Dr Crispo said:

"My impression is that the C.L.C. is virtually independent of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. . . .

It has taken time to determine the degree of autonomy and I think what it has in fact established is almost complete. I could review for you at some length the record of disputes, of controversy, of conflict between these two organizations, and I think if I did so I would be able to prove to your satisfaction that no matter what issue arises, when it arises the C.L.C. point of view invariably in the final analysis triumphs."

With regard to the international unions Professor Crispo said:

"Most international unions . . . claim, and let us emphasize that word, that they allow the Canadian members to run their own show. I believe this is largely true of most of the major unions. I am thinking of steel, auto, packinghouse and woodworkers and you can go down the list . . . I do not think it is true of the majority of the smaller international unions . . .

In other words it is the larger unions with the greatest number of Canadian members that are prone to give their Canadian membership complete scope for running their own affairs. It is the smaller ones with smaller memberships . . . that . . . cannot meet all of these tests that I happen to believe are tests that should be met".

It is particularly relevant to note Professor Crispo's evidence with regard to the autonomy exercised by the Canadian Labour Congress and by Canadian branches of International Unions in the field of international affairs. In this respect he stated:

"On foreign affairs the record is so clearcut that I do not know why I should bother telling you about it. I do not care what issue you take . . . However, on this issue of foreign affairs, I do not think there is any doubt where the CLC has been. It has been on the side of the angels, if I may put it that way, whether you look at disarmament, Cuba, China, Vietnam, or anything else you want to talk about. I think the CLC has shown again by the positions it has taken that it does not buckle under to any kind of influence from south of the border.