

The recent strike called by the Canadian Seamen's Union has had disastrous results upon Canadian flag shipping. The strike has literally cost the owners millions of dollars.

Chose Time Well

The Communists chose their time well. They chose a time when freight rates were dropping rapidly and Canadian owners could ill afford to have their ships tied up. By lies and half truths they managed to spread the trouble to almost every part of the world. Union leaders in other countries were led to believe that the strike in foreign ports was legal and genuine and that the Canadian seamen were fighting for better wages and living conditions. The Communists succeeded in tying up not only Canadian but United Kingdom ships and interfered with the delivery of vital food supplies to Great Britain. If their plans had succeeded, the carriage of cargoes under the Marshall plan might have been dangerously affected.

While I am glad to say that the major threat has passed, the strike is not yet over. I have recently seen a copy of a circular letter which purports to have been written by a leader of the striking union to its members. These members are directed "to infiltrate back to the ships." They are told to organize committees aboard ships - the Communist word is "cell" - and that they must maintain communication with the principal shore committee. Local leaders are instructed "to devise methods to carry out this tactic." The members are told to join a rival union for the purpose of causing trouble within that union. They are told to attempt to tie up the ships in foreign ports where it is confidently stated they will get support. They are told to continue the struggle "until a more favourable day is reached."

If this letter is genuine, as I believe it is, it has the familiar sinister background of Communism. To anyone who is alive to what is going on in the world today, the pattern is apparent. We see on every side and in every country attempts being made to upset order by violence. This condition has progressed a long way in Europe. By lies and by preaching the gospel of hatred and ill-will, the Communists hope to create an atmosphere in which their doctrine of world revolution will succeed.

Must Study Meaning of Communism

You may ask me why does not the government do something about it. My reply is this: you do not alter the character of a scorpion by locking it up. It is still the same scorpion when it is released. Moreover, this particular type of scorpion loves to pretend that it is a martyr and thus gain eminence among its fellow scorpions. Under our democratic system there is no method of extracting its venom. The best method of dealing with this scorpion is to crush its head under the strong heel of public opinion.

It is, therefore, the duty of each one of us, not collectively but individually - to study the full implication of Communism and to recognize it in all its forms. If the individual, whatever his occupation is, decides that he does not want to live in that society, he himself must fight every organization, theory or activity which is tainted with the Communistic doctrine. It is through the individual - and not by state compulsion - that Communism will be defeated.

Before me, I see representatives of the different kinds of transportation businesses. To you in particular and to those associated with you throughout Canada, may I emphasize that you are doing a job that is vital to our country's present and future prosperity. Behind the transportation industry lies a great tradition of public service, which is being worthily upheld today. Before you is the opportunity to march with all who, in this troubled world, strive to lead this nation to the high destiny to which Providence has called her. I know you will not fail.