

Legislative committees have been established by the railroad brotherhoods to advance the interest of the railway workers by petitioning for legislative action in the Parliament of Canada or in the legislature of any province.

The Canadian Railway Labour Executive's Association, comprised of the senior officers of international and national railway unions active in Canada is a voluntary organization established for the purpose of promoting co-operative action and co-ordinated policy on all matters of mutual interest and importance to members of railway unions in Canada.

The General Conference Committee, Associated Non-Operating Railway Unions, is a voluntary organization established by the non-operating unions as a policy making body in matters affecting wages and working conditions. It is comprised of the senior officers and the general chairmen of the 15-member railway organizations.

The Negotiating Committee, Associated Non-Operating Railway Unions, constitutes the negotiating committee for the 15 railway organizations comprising the General Conference Committee.

4.09 *The Trade Departments* In the United States the A.F.L.-C.I.O. have established a number of trade departments. Their functions are to facilitate union relations and to promote the organized activities of specific groups of workers. Four of these departments are active and have chartered branches in Canada: Maritime Trades Department, Building and Construction Trades Department, Metal Trades Department and Railway Employees Department. These departments function independently of the Canadian Labour Congress, and on occasion they have maintained in affiliation local unions opposed to Canadian Labour Congress policies or expelled from the Canadian Congress. There is a lack of information available concerning the activity of these trade departments as they fall outside the scope of the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act.

4.10 *Area Conferences* The Area Conferences have been established by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which has 37 Canadian locals with membership of 51,000. These bodies are organized along geographical lines—eastern conference, central conference, western conference—and function as the administrative arm of the international union headquarters in co-ordinating the bargaining activities of the locals on both sides of the border, with emphasis on area and industry-wide collective bargaining. They are financially supported by a per capita tax levied on Canadian locals as well as United States locals which is matched by an equivalent amount contributed by the international union headquarters whose jurisdiction extends to both Canada and the United States. They also fall outside the scope of the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act and accordingly little additional information is available on their internal affairs or operations.

4.11 *A.F.L.-C.I.O.* Most international unions active in Canada became members of a single federation in December, 1955, when the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the A.F.L.-C.I.O. This federation is largely similar in structure to the Canadian Labour Congress and the organization of most large international unions. The biennial convention is the primary governing body, and the president and secretary-treasurer have essentially the same responsibilities as their counterparts in the Canadian Labour Congress and large international unions but on a substantially broader scale. The executive council which is elected at the convention