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NO TUNE CALLING BY THE CLC

Canadian Labour Unions And the New Party

By EUGENE FORSEY

Dr. Forsey, a prominent Canadian political scientist and at present the Director of Research, Canadian Labour Congress, in this article takes on the question of trade union domination of the New Party. He argues that neither in affiliation, voting practices, nor in the payment of fees will the New Party be unduly influenced by any specific group within its midst. Probably his most essential point is that the unions will not be paying the piper and thus not calling the policy tune.

The question you raise, "Will the New Party be dominated by the trade unions?" is a most important one. I can say at once that I think the answer is "No."

Of course the New Party does not yet exist, so it is impossible to be absolutely certain about anything connected with it. But, from the official publications of the joint CLC-CCF National Committee, or the National Committee for the New Party as it is now called, which is preparing for the Founding Con-

vention in July, some things are already tolerably clear, and certainly represent the firm intentions of the CLC.

Not a Million

First, the Canadian Labour Congress itself will not be affiliated to the New Party. Neither will provincial Federations of Labour nor local Labour Councils. The Congress, and the Federations, if they declare their support of the principles, programme and activities of the party, will be entitled to two delegates each to the party's national convention; local Labour Councils which declare their support will be entitled to one delegate each. Even if all of them made such declarations, this would give the whole lot of central labour organizations a total of only about 122 delegates, out of a possible total of thousands. The minimum number of delegates from Dominion constituencies, 265, could outvote the maximum number of Congress, Federation and Council delegates two to one, with something to spare. For voting will be on the basis of one delegate, one vote; there will be no bloc voting such as gives British unions substantial control of the British Labour Party. If the Congress sends its possible two delegates, they can cast precisely two votes, not a million.

Piper's Pay

Second, as neither the Congress, nor the Federations, nor the local Councils, will be affiliated to the New Party, it follows that they will not pay dues to it. They could, of course, make contributions. But they haven't the money to make more than small and occasional ones. In short, the central labour organizations can't and won't pay the piper; so they can't and won't call the tune.

Third, while national, international, provincial and local unions can affiliate (so can farm organizations and co-operatives), it is by no means certain that all of them will. Some union constitutions still forbid political activity of any kind; and it is perfectly possible that a considerable number of national and international unions, and a considerable number of locals, may not affiliate at all. There are British unions which are not affiliated to the British Labour Party, after more than 50 years. The notion that all the affiliated and chartered unions of the CLC automatically affiliate to the New Party the moment it comes into existence is completely unfounded. Each union will make its own decision.

Weak as Water

Fourth, any union which does affiliate will be entitled to one delegate per 1,000 members or major fraction thereof (with a minimum of one delegate for even the smallest affiliated local), while each Dominion constituency association will be entitled to one delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof for the first 200 members, and after that one extra delegate for each extra 100 members or major fraction thereof, with a minimum of one delegate for each constituency association.

Obviously, this weights the representation heavily in favour of the constituency associations, which, of course, will consist of individual members; and, again, there will be no bloc voting; just one delegate,

LETTERS

... escaping ...

Sir: May I express my whole-hearted agreement with all those who are seeking a mid-term break. Such a holiday would benefit both the faculty and the student body. I use the term "holiday" deliberately for I certainly would spend the extra time escaping entirely from studies. After about 12 weeks of hard work a person is in no way eager to plunge into an arduous review while still keeping up with day-to-day assignments.

However, a three-day or week-long rest would provide harried collegians with a fresh impetus that, one hopes, would carry them through the dark days before and during exams.

If, as the Gazette reports, some professors think that the academic year is already too short, I, for one, have no objection to lengthening it by a few weeks, as long as it is broken up by timely recesses.

Heather Saunderson, Science '63.

...hitch-hiking...

Sir: Perhaps those few Dalhousians who do not fit the Rhodesian view, and those prompted to seek hitch-hiking adventures (re previous—No. 15—issue of Gazette, p. 2) would be interested in a few words concerning the Canadian Youth Hostels Association.

The CYHA has existed throughout Canada for many years; it is primarily a facility for travel, being designed for the benefit of all, but particularly young people, that they may get out and about in their own countryside and learn to know it better. It is an inexpensive means by which hikers, cyclists, skiers, canoeists and others may enjoy the open road and under their own steam, and stimulates in its members a love and care for the countryside, a consideration for others, and a co-operative spirit. There is no distinction of class, race or creed.

Anyone can belong to the CYHA: membership is only a few dollars a year, yet allows you to enjoy the facilities and benefits not only of CYHA across Canada but also of similar YH organizations operating in THIRTY-TWO countries of the world.

There is a branch of CYHA here in Halifax: further enquiries will receive a warm welcome at 422-7341 local 265 (days), or see the under-

GEOFF DEAN, Chemistry Bldg., Room 4.

one vote. So, even if all the unions affiliate, which is far from likely, the constituency organizations, unless they are as weak as water, will be able to muster as large a number of delegates, or larger. And of course the assumption that all union delegates will think, speak and vote alike, is ridiculous. It is wildly improbable that on any question, the whole body of union delegates will line up on one side.

Money Again

Finally, money again. Individual members will pay \$2.50 per year. Affiliated unions will pay 60 cents per year per-member-who-chooses. (Any union member who objects has simply to say so, and the monthly five cents on his behalf stops. Thousands and thousands of members of British unions affiliated to the British Labour Party do exactly this.) So, even if all the unions affiliate (which they won't) and even if all their members agree to pay dues (which they won't), again, unless the constituency associations are as weak as water, the unions won't be able to pay the piper and call the tune.

In short, the New Party will be financed and run by its members, not by any particular section of them, or by an particular group of organizations.

No Explanation No Study Break:

Despite an assurance from Dr. Archibald that the idea would probably be ratified by the professors, the faculty has inexplicably refused a three-day study break.

Both the request for the break as well as the unofficial positions that seem to lie behind the rejection warrant close consideration. Especially unfortunate are the tendencies within the university itself that have been brought closer to the surface than usual by the faculty dismissal of the idea.

A study break, even for three days, would provide benefits for both the serious and the activity-oriented student.

If extra-curricular activities are admitted to be an essential part of a university (a fact at least tacitly recognized at Dalhousie) one bald fact should always be in the foreground of those who plan the study curriculum: active students cannot produce worthwhile work unless they are given some period of grace between their work on campus and the deadline for the tangible production of results in the work accomplished during the term as well as in the final examinations.

However, a break would not be unproductive of valuable results even for the most hard-working student on the campus, who spends up to 50 or more hours a week at the books in addition to classes. With a period of time free from class commitments such a student could investigate problems that he had not had the time to consider under the pressure of six or seven term papers.

Lifting of pressure for a brief period of time from everyone will almost automatically increase his capacity for more and better work. It must be recognized that students are not machines who can be expected to work six days a week in class and labs plus evenings and Sundays on essays and reading and still produce work of any worthwhile quality, while also becoming aware that the academic world is not the only concern that exists.

Dalhousie has acquired an unfortunate habit of regarding the time that is spent at lectures as hours always spent wisely. But the facts frequently point in an opposite direction, particularly when the professor is a poor one who simply talks to fill up an hour, rather than lecturing, informing, or stimulating his students to anything but a desire to get out of the room at the first available opportunity.

Let us not forget that Dalhousie has more than its share of such faculty members.

Even apart from the consideration that other universities have adopted the idea suc-

cessfully, the reasons behind the request for a break in the term are sufficiently strong to warrant it a more favourable reception than that which the idea received at the last meeting of the faculty.

It is also unfortunate that the university has not found it advisable to provide the students with official explanations of the refusal that would serve to offset the very powerful reasons for its inception. We can only think that no sufficiently good excuses have been manufactured.

* * * *

For Whose Sake?

Moral Re-Armament, a rather nebulous though wealthy movement, concerned with the preservation of the American way of life from the evil of materialistic Communism, has once again spread itself over the local press with a call to ideological arms. Aside from the credentials of those running the organization, it is particularly important to take a close look at the implications involved in this type of moral re-armament.

It is unabashed ideology. It has an end that in many respects seems alien to finding some valid basis on which to understand the assumptions that lie beneath the surface of Western society. It hopes to present a creed that will inspire Americans and their allies to take up the fight against Communism both in the ideological and military fields and part of its core appears to be a strange brand of evangelical Christianity.

Says Buchman, the American leader of the organization, "I don't want our sons, especially our fighting sons, to go about without an answer." He goes on to add that once the tenets of Moral Re-Armament have been thoroughly imbibed "then our young men and old men will fight as Lincoln fought of old. Our young men will know what to fight for and our ways will be won. And we shall be at peace with all men and the whole world."

Besides what seems unusual logic this is hardly the atmosphere that will promote the understanding by men of their society and its values, and it is most certainly not the way to lead the world to some sort of peaceful existence. The polemic which now encompasses most of the world were it not so bitter and so horribly volatile would appear a pathetic spectacle of small men screaming about truth above the chatter of a machine gun. Somehow, Abbot Kaelin's feelings about "the four mighty pillars" of Moral Re-Armament "absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love" seem misplaced.

"The hour is late," says Buchman. "Here is the answer. For God's sake, wake up!" And we are certain God is concerned with the West, and it may very well be the West feels the same way.