

that way. Despite all the "black magic" attached to the card, by both members and non-members, many strong supporters did not have one. In his 1952 interrogation, Norman admitted that he had been very close to the Party and would probably have joined if he had remained in Cambridge another year. He had talked like a Communist, he conceded, and could not blame anyone for taking him for one. While in Cambridge, his one Party chore had been to recruit Indian students for the Party and to coach them in the take over of an Indian student club; he is reported to have succeeded with four students. He denied agreeing to this role but is contradicted by two friends, Professors Victor Kiernan and Harry Ferns, who took it over in succeeding years. In any case, was the task really as "sinister in the extreme," as contended by Barros? (11) Because India's struggle for independence was under way, Indian students abroad were under close observation, and club recruitment had to be discreet. This could well be the reason why Norman did not become a full "card carrying" member. Technicality or not, it enabled Norman in subsequent years both to boast about membership and to deny it, without necessarily straying from the literal truth.

Was Norman a Marxist, and a sympathiser with the Communist Party and the Soviet Union?

While at Cambridge obviously yes. Both Norman and Robert Bryce attended meetings of the large and lively Cambridge Socialist Society, increasingly under Communist domination. Norman also attended meetings of the Communist group in his College, at least during his first year. The two friends marched together in a celebrated demonstration against war and Fascism organized by Guy Burgess on Armistice Day, 1933. It wound up at the Cenotaph in a skirmish with a counter demonstration of right-wingers led by another Canadian, George Hees, "wading and slugging," in Norman's words. (The Hon. George Hees recalls the battle with relish, but is not clear who won!)

For a youth of Norman's sensitivity and social conscience, it would have been difficult not to be radical in Cambridge in the mid-1930's. Social conditions were appalling, and, even more worrying to Norman, Fascism was on the rise. Hitler alarmed him much more, he said, than Stalin had ever appealed. Appeasers were in power in Britain and France, and isolationism was predominant in the United States and Canada.

Escott Reid, the radical mandarin who is now almost the last survivor of the giants responsible for foreign policy during the post 1945 "Golden Decade" in Canada's diplomacy, has written: "If I had been at Cambridge in the mid-thirties I might have joined the British Communist Party. When I think of