

The disadvantages result from the dependency of Canadian locals upon the parent international unions. In some cases this dependency results from the manner of electing the top Canadian officers, payment of the Canadian officers and staffs by the parent international unions, the fact that strike funds and at times pension and welfare funds are controlled by the international union headquarters, and the fact that pension and welfare benefits are not portable.

#### 4.16 *Conclusions and Recommendations (Part IV—Trade Unions)*

It is the view of the Committee that, as stressed by Professor Crispo, it is up to workers to decide for themselves whether they should be represented in their collective bargaining units by national or international unions.

From the evidence, the Committee concludes that there are important and basic differences between the effect of the activities of multi-national corporations in Canada on the Canadian economy and that of the activities of international unions. It, therefore, follows that a different approach is required in the field of international unions in order to avoid interfering with the right of workers to join the union of their choice and to bargain collectively within the terms of provincial and federal legislation covering the bargaining process. However, the Committee is also of the opinion that the development of a fully independent Canadian identity and the need that Canadian interests be always uppermost in every sphere of activity require that Canadian branches of international unions quickly gain the fullest possible autonomy and freedom of action in this country. The Committee believes that, as indicated earlier, there are numerous examples of this goal having been attained and the Committee also notes with pleasure that at the recent Canadian Labour Congress Convention the following resolution was adopted:

“Whereas the international labour unions have contributed to the establishment, growth and success of the trade union movement in Canada; and

Whereas there is a growing tendency toward a Canadian identity in social and economic sectors of our society;

Be it resolved that the Canadian Labour Congress adopt a firm policy supporting minimum standards of self-government of the Canadian sections of international unions; and

Be it further resolved that these standards include: election of Canadian officers by Canadians; policies to deal with national affairs to be determined by elected Canadian officers, and/or members; Canadian elected representatives to have authority to speak for the union in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that the Canadian Labour Congress do all in its power to assist the affiliated unions in the attainment of these objectives.”

In view of these developments in the labour movement itself and in view of a growing concern by Canadian union members to achieve greater autonomy, the Committee has concluded that legislation is not required. However, the Committee also believes that it is desirable to recommend guidelines which would give encouragement and support to Canadian members of international unions in their desire to achieve greater autonomy.