

I had a brief section here on the effect of international unions on international relations. I really do not feel that competent to deal with this. I looked at it, but could find very little evidence, so anything I say here is based on very scanty evidence. I think that simply means that by and large they have not had any effect on relations between the countries in the broadest sense. The exception, of course, I call the SIU fiasco. I do not know what you should call it, but that really was a case where international unionism was at the root of a great deal of controversy between the two countries, but we weathered it and thank God we finally stood up and were counted, and resisted the American overtures to go along with a trusteeship as long as two out of the three could be Americans, which is a typical American approach to things.

Otherwise, I do not think international unions have had that much effect one way or the other. My own impression is that where you find evidence, it tends to be positive. They have in fact helped on certain occasions and I cite here the example of the International Woodworkers of America. When the industry in the United States was trying to impose additional barriers on Canadian import, the international union sided with their Canadian members and helped this country resist the tremendous pressures which were then being brought to bear to curtail our imports.

Some of the other examples are not as encouraging. For example, United Steelworkers of America will help at any time to ensure that our raw materials can go into the United States, or semi-finished products. They are not quite as charitable when it comes to finely finished and specially-finished steel products. But you can see their point of view. Just as we are trying to force more complete manufacture in this country, they would rather get the thing in a less-manufactured state so their members can finish the job in the States. However, these things are part and parcel of the game."

Professor Crispo suggested five tests or guidelines which he thought should be followed by International Unions and emphasized particularly the importance of financial autonomy:

"I think that there should be control over union expenditures in Canada, and that the control over union expenditures in Canada should rest in Canada. I am not saying that international unions should not continue to hold back a proportion of the dues dollar raised in Canada, because they still provide services. There is often the strike fund. There is sometimes research. There is education. The convention expenses are paid for by the internationals, and there is the international magazine. There are several things.

I am not denying that there should be holdbacks. I am simply saying that once a rational calculation is made of what the Canadian portion of the international expenses are, the remaining funds should come under the control of the Canadian officers and the Canadian policy conference.

He who pays the piper calls the tune."

4.15 *Advantages and Disadvantages of International Unions* While international unions have certain disadvantages outlined below, it must be noted that on balance they have been decidedly advantageous to Canada. In terms of numerical support, funds for strikes, systems of union organizing, collective bargaining skills, demonstrable examples of better working conditions and higher wages, the link with the American unions has been of great value and it is doubtful if Canadian labour could have achieved its present strong position without it.