

March 30

C.C.F. Editorial 'Utterly False,' Drew Tells House

A challenge to the C.C.F. members of the Legislature to "assure a more accurate interpretation in their official publication of what actually does take place in this Legislature," was made yesterday by Premier George Drew when he branded as "utterly false" editorial statements appearing in the party organ, "C.C.F. News."

At the same time the Premier tabled a 13-page cabled article, a violent attack on Winston Churchill, which had been sent from Moscow to the Soviet Embassy at Ottawa and then offered to a Canadian publication. His purpose for presenting it to the House, he said, was to show the extent of "Soviet insolence" in seeking to propagandize Canadians a full month after "their spying activities had been exposed to the world," and in justification of his claim that communism sought by every possible means to sow distrust and suspicion between nations and groups within nations.

Has Faith in Labor

The C.C.F. editorial charged that the Premier had stated his Government would regard "all future strikes as Communist-inspired and therefore unprincipled, unjustified and un-Canadian." It agreed with him, however, that Communists were a disruptive and destructive force within the ranks of organized labor. That, the Premier said, was exactly what he had said, but he also had expressed the greatest admiration of and faith in organized labor. At no time had he said that all strikes were Communist-inspired; he had quoted from Communist Leader Tim Buck's own book that the party objective was to capitalize politically by fomenting strike action.

Holding up a copy of the Canadian Communist organ, "National Affairs," the Premier then read extracts from an article by Leslie Morris. One part stated, in commenting on the Ford strike: "We are witnessing in this country a struggle for leadership of the key industrial workers by the Marxists on one hand and the CCF opportunists on the other." Again the article said, regarding the CCF and the Ford strike: "It rejected the means whereby the strike could have served as the political medium of winning a great victory." The word "political," he said, was italicized.

Quotation is Proof

Here, he said, was ample proof of the charge he had made, and which the CCF organ distorted—that the Communists sought political advantage in labor unrest. Here also, he said, was ample reason for the CCF to recognize the truth of what he had said: A Communist writer declaring that the party was seeking political gain in strikes.

Premier Drew stressed that he did not "associate the members of this Legislature who belong to the CCF Party with the dishonest statements in the CCF article." Having been present when he spoke originally on Communism's objectives in labor, and knowing the truth of what he had said, the members should see that more accurate reports and editorial statements on Legislature matters appear in the organ which they officially endorsed, the Premier said.