

Mr. Robinson Asked \$5,000 From Industrialist In U. S.

Big Shot Of Union Branded Racketeer By American Writer

Don Cameron, brilliant writer for the Windsor Daily Star was a recent visitor to the Porcupine camp to study communism in action in the trade union movement here as part of a national survey of the subject. In a subsequent article Mr. Cameron brought out the fact that Reid Robinson was involved in a sordid scandal in the U.S.—an effort to "borrow" \$5,000 from an industrialist with whom his union was at the time negotiating.

The editor of the Advance immediately wired Mr. Cameron asking for a full report on the matter. What follows is Mr. Cameron's reply:

Windsor
Saturday March 13, '48

Dear Don Delaplante:
In response to your wire about Robinson's attempt to borrow \$5,000 from an industrialist—which at the time made some headlines in Chicago papers I'll quote the lead of the eleventh of a series of articles run in the Chicago Journal of Commerce in January, 1947, under the by-line of Andrew Avery:

Rarely do you find a Communist party-liner in the labor movement who is a racketeer. This is partly because the industrial unions and the basic industries, in which the party has rooted itself most deeply, are not those in which racketeering flourishes. All the greatest cases, partly because the Communist oligarchy imposes a firm discipline on its subjects, and also because party-liners, as a rule, are thirsty for power, not money.

However, there are exceptions. One day in 1945, while the I. U. M. S. W. C. I. O. was negotiating a new contract for the various plants of the Doehler-Jarvis Corp., which is the largest producer of die-casting in the world, Reid Robinson, president of the union, went to see Charles Pack, vice president of the company.

"I need \$5,000," said Robinson. "Will you lend it to me? My brother is a vice-president of the union and he has absconded with \$7,000 of the union's funds. I made up \$2,000 of the shortage with my own money, and I shifted \$5,000 from a revolving fund in my office to cover up the other \$5,000 of the shortage. I've got to have \$5,000 right away to cover that shortage."

Pack said he would have to think it over. When Robinson telephoned afterwards, he received a message from Pack saying the "loan" could not be discussed further.

It was discussed widely, however, in the union, as soon as it became known, and the discussion reached its climax in the union convention in Cleveland last September. As every delegate knew Reid Robinson had no brother who was vice-president of the union. He had simply invented a pretext for borrowing \$5,000 from the Doehler - Jarvis Corp.

The Communist Party, which controls the union, was angry at Robinson for giving the anti-Communists a ready-made issue, but it could not afford to drop him. Robinson had been president of the union since 1935 and definitely had become a party-liner in 1938.

When the question of the "loan" was raised in the convention, Robinson magnanimously conceded that he had made "an error of judgement", and promised not to repeat it. There was a hot and noisy fight, but the Communists mustered enough votes to beat a resolution reproaching him.

Two months later, in November, the union officers elected their officers—and the two biggest issues were the attempted "loan" and the Communist Domination of the union.

The above are direct quotes from the Journal of Commerce. Robinson was re-elected president of the union by 37,736 to 31,508, or a majority of about 6 to 5, after a tough fight, in which the Union, official I. U. M. S. W. paper, of which Horowitz is an associate editor, decided most of its space was supporting Robinson.

Robinson got the more trouble in the next election, more in September.

Council Is Stumped By Church Position

Timmins town council was "stumped" this week when it was learned in a letter from Caldbick and Yates, representing Rev. Bishop R. J. Renison, that St. Matthew's Pro-cathedral overlapped on town property by a distance of eight and one half feet.

The church was rebuilt recently. "We will have to charge them something," said Councillor Les Bailey, "I suggest we make it \$1 per year." "We charged Mr. Roy \$5 a year and his property only overlapped by a few inches," pointed out Councillor Urbain Aubry.

"There is a difference between a religious institution and a business institution," said Mayor Eyre, "It seems they build first and survey after."

The matter was shelved for further discussion. In Cleveland, when he was again elected President—but by the use of tactics so questionable that 50 local unions of the I. U. M. S. W. withdrew from affiliation, which amounted to a walk-out of practically one-fourth of the dues-paying membership.

Seems the union constitution states that only paid-up locals are entitled to vote in international elections, and a lot of the mine locals weren't paid up to date on their dues. The canvassing committee conducting the election, however, unlawfully extended the time of some of them for paying till after the election. The locals thus favored were pro-Red and pro Robinson, and he went into office on their votes. Maurice Travis, now Communist secretary-treasurer of the international union, who had been up in Northern Ontario lately, was elected vice-president.

In the resulting furore, Robinson was forced to resign the presidency, which made Travis president. The upshot was that C. I. O. special committee to look into alleged irregularities in the I. U. M. S. W.

The investigating committee's report recommended that Travis follow Robinson's lead in resigning, or that he be removed from the presidency if necessary, and that Murray appoint an administrative committee to run the international union till time for another convention. Whether or not Travis did resign is something I don't know for sure.

The committee's report further quoted Charles Moyer, a non-Red man who was elected secretary-treasurer in the disputed election, and who subsequently resigned, to the effect that: "... he was unable to continue as secretary-treasurer of an organization whose officers had requested him to issue untrue statements and join in unprincipled attacks, and that the loyalty of the present officers of the I. U. M. S. W. is not to the members of the union but to an outside group having no connection with the trade union movement—in every dealing they acted under the guidance and instruction of the Communist Party. Their ties with the Communist Party are self-evident. Under orders these officers are in fact attacking President Philip Murray and other officers of the C. I. O. who reject Communist infiltration; and that he (Moyer) had learned that genuine co-operation is impossible with the anti-union Travis clique now running and ruining the International Union."

That's how matters stood, as far as I know, until the most recent international convention, when Reid Robinson was elected eastern vice-president and Maurice Travis international secretary-treasurer.

Robinson's connection with Communist activities and Communist front organizations are substantiated by records in the F. B. I. files across the border. Immigration officials should have any trouble proving how Reid Robinson is a Communist.

Don Cameron

Brother, Get Wise To Yourself!

It is a fool who doesn't know when his own bread and butter is threatened.

The fact that there is a super-abundant number of fools in this district was made evident at the union hall here last Sunday. Out of a working force of several thousand men in the mines only 112 turned out to combat Reid Robinson and his Communist henchmen, saboteurs of the labor movement here and possible saboteurs of a number of other things when the proper time occurs.

Crass stupidity is the only way of describing the action of any man who works in the mines and refrains from attending union meetings while the present struggle for for the control of Local 241 goes on. Brother, if you are interested in your job, the welfare of your wife and family and the welfare of this country as a whole, you will get off your seat on Sunday afternoons and go down to the union hall.

Union member or not, if you think that Robinson and the other lice infesting the labor movement here have no power to affect you personally, you are badly mistaken. Under the labor laws of this country Local 241 is still the official bargaining agency with the mines of this district. And nobody else can assume that position until they are prepared to prove that they represent 50 percent of the workers in the mines.

Have you got a kid going to school? Well, when you go home tonight get his or her geography book and open it at the map of Canada. Take a good, long look at the map. You will see that if and when the next war occurs—and it is as certain as tomorrow's sunrise that it will—this section of Canada is the most strategically important piece of land on the North American continent. The long arm of Hudson's Bay and James Bay points directly at the industrial heart of America. . . . Why do you think the concentration of Communists here is greater than anywhere else in this country? Why do you think more of them are being imported from other sections of the country every week?

Brother, get wise to yourself!
Don Delaplante,
Editor,
The Advance.

Kiwanis Honor St. Pat At Luncheon Meeting

Monday was "St. Patrick's Day" at Brochu. In her opening number this the Timmins Kiwanis luncheon, and all with a charming Irish song that led to equally charming dancing. Her second number, in costume, was a pleasing and skillful presentation of the "Sailor's Hornpipe." Mrs. W. Shields played the accompaniments for this talented pupil of hers.

Kiwanian Arch Gillies expressed the appreciation of the club for this and the other features of the programme, and for the good work of those responsible for the day's programme. President Quinn added his personal words of thanks to the committees and the artists.

Another outstanding number for the day was the notable rendition on the violin of the Londonderry Air ("Danny Boy") by Kiwanian Edouard Bartlett, with piano accompaniment by Geo. A. Jenin. Under insistent demand for an encore, these musical artists presented a lively version of "The Irish Washer-woman."

Guests for the day (introduced by vice-president P. A. Woodbury) were: Mrs. W. Shields, Mrs. W. Brochu, Miss Rayette Brochu, P. C. H. Simms, J. P. Burke, and Geo. A. Jenkin. H. G. Laidlaw read the list of club members already signed up for the Kiwanis bonspiel at Kirkland Lake on Saturday, for the Karl Eyre Trophy.

NOT DEEMED ADVISABLE
In a letter to town council this week, St. Mary's Hospital stated that did not believe it advisable to sell any of the hospital's property to the town for the purpose of building a medical laboratory. The study the town offered to buy a parcel of land at the rear of the post office for this purpose.

OFFER AID
The 49 members of the northern branch of the Garage Operators' Association this week offered the town their services in assisting to solve any traffic problems in Timmins.

Ostrowski Declares Lakes Polluted By Sucker Bait

The better lakes of this district are being polluted by fishermen who use sucker minnows for bait, a local sportsman interviewed by the Advance said this week. The man was "Zig" Ostrowski, candidate for council who finished in seventh place in the December elections.

"Four years ago at Round Lake near here there wasn't a sucker in the lake," he claimed. "Today you will find them there more than a foot long. This has been caused by fishermen using sucker minnows as bait."

He said that such fishermen caught their bait in other waters than those in which they were fishing.

"When then a sucker minnow wriggles off the hook the lake is polluted with them," he stated. "In addition, at the end of a day such fishermen will empty their minnow buckets into the lake instead of on shore."

Hollinger Resumes Hiring

E. L. Longmore, general manager of Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Limited, announced this week that the company has resumed the hiring of new employees on a limited scale.

Two months ago the Hollinger announced that all hiring was being suspended as a result of the acute power shortage in the district. At that time every effort was being made to conserve power to eliminate the possibility of restrictions of operation being imposed with resulting unemployment.

Mr. Longmore pointed out that, as a result of the excellent cooperation of employees, the consumption of electricity at the mine has been reduced by almost 15 per cent since the first of the year. This saving coupled with the increased power now available has made the decision to resume hiring possible, and it is hoped that in the near future the situation will have returned to normal.

The hiring of additional men at this time will not immediately affect production. Each new employee spends some time on the training level before going on production work, and the immediate needs of the company in the way of new employees will be confined to those who can be accommodated on the training level.

A requisition for men has been forwarded to the local office of the National Employment Service. Applicants who are able and willing to work are being selected by the N. E. S. for interview with Hollinger employment officials. Some of the men selected will start work on the training level immediately.

More Aid From Province To Porcupine Health Unit

In a letter this week to Timmins town council, the Ontario Department of Health offered to increase its grant supporting the Porcupine health unit. In the past the province has absorbed 25 percent of the costs of the unit; now it will carry one-third of the costs.

The unit is asking \$8,000 more this year than it did during 1947.

WHEN, PHILIP, WHEN?
At this week's meeting of council, Philip Fay, chairman of the town's works committee, reported that his survey of the town's property to ascertain whether it was adequately covered with insurance was still not complete.

NOT LEGITIMATE
The present officers aren't interested in legitimate trade union activities. They are pushing the International on a reckless course and leading it to destruction. They are violating the principles of the CIO, which I cherish and to which I adhere. They are destroying the unions chance of making any progress."

Charles W. Moyer in stating why he resigned as secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, April 4, 1947.

TCAC Dispenses Funds Lavishly On Boys' Boxing

There is one organization in Timmins which is spending more money than most citizens realize.

This organization is the Timmins Community Activities Committee of which R. E. "Bim" Sturgeon is director and which is guided by a board of twelve prominent citizens among whom are two members of Timmins town council, Urbain Aubry and Leo Del Villano.

At a recent meeting of this committee which was not attended by either a reporter from this paper or from the local daily, the following were authorized:

1. Rent of a store at 66 Third avenue, one of the town's most valuable business locations, at the sum of \$350 per month. This store was to be and is being used as a gym to teach the town's youngsters boxing. It is also used as a training centre for a few persons interested in weight-lifting. In addition, the T. C. A. C. rents premises on Pine street south for the same purpose for \$90 a month. Cost in rent alone to promote boxing, \$440 a month, plus heat and light for both premises.

2. Payment of \$250 a month salary to a trainer to oversee the training of the youngsters at Pine street. Payment of \$100 a month to a second trainer to overlook the training of the boxers at Third avenue. Wages attributed to this line of endeavor, \$410 a month.

3. An increase in salary to R. E. "Bim" Sturgeon of \$600 a year to \$3,600.

4. A request of some \$50,000 from the town fathers for T. C. A. C. activities for 1948. During 1947 the T. C. A. C. operated on a budget of \$28,000.

Mining Institute Meets at Vancouver

The Jubilee of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy is being celebrated this year at meetings in Vancouver on April 5-8. Members from all parts of Canada and delegates and guests from abroad will attend technical sessions and social events in the Hotels Vancouver and Georgia, and then will leave on excursions round the Gulf of Georgia and to British Columbia's principal mining camps.

Since incorporation of the Institute in 1898, the Dominion's mineral industry has developed from a small and struggling affair into one of the world's important units. Then we were purveyors of raw ores to our neighbours on a small scale, with a per capita annual production of \$7.32. Today not only do our minerals support a great and growing industry within our own borders, but we have become one of the world's leading suppliers of refined metals and minerals. The per capita value in 1947 was over \$50. Nor are we prodigal of our resources, for it is only out of our superabundance that we are helping to supply our neighbours.

The proceedings of the Jubilee meeting are designed to mark fifty years of progress in each of the major divisions of the mineral industry, namely, Coal, Geology, Industrial Minerals, Metallurgy, and Metal Mining. Leaders in each of these lines will present papers and lead discussions. Prominent Canadians and speakers from the United States will address the meeting on more general topics. The Jubilee meeting promises to be a landmark in Institute history.

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TCAC Moving Out Of Pine Street Gym, Director States

R. E. "Bim" Sturgeon, recreation director of Timmins, said today that the TCAC has ceased to occupy the premises it has been renting on Pine street south as a gym. The TCAC has been paying a rental of \$90 a month. TCAC equipment is now in the process of being removed.

Mayor Rebukes Lachance

Another stormy scene in the bus fare wrangle occurred this week at the meeting of town council. R. A. Lachance, international representative of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, accused Mayor Carl Eyre of "stalling" with a decision of what should be done about regulating bus fares.

Mayor Eyre replied vigorously to the unionist's charges and at one point said, "If that is the way you feel about it, then we'll call off the whole matter."

The exchange began when Mr. Lachance rose to his feet as a member of the citizen's committee on bus fares and said, "I wonder if you would tell us what kind of figures you are working on?"

Previously the mayor had said that he was personally making an investigation into bus fares. "We are sick and tired of waiting to talk to you about this matter," Lachance continued. "You told the members of this committee you would have a report ready for March 15. Why is this stalling taking place. We want the report right now."

Mayor Eyre: "I am preparing a report based on facts and it is not yet ready. I did not say that it would be ready today. Before I make any statements about this matter I must be positive about my facts. This report will be ready by next Monday or perhaps before."

Mr. Lachance rose again to accuse the mayor of "stalling". J. Emile Brunette: "Mr. Lachance, I do not believe there is any sense in acting in the way you are. Mr. Eyre said it will be ready by Monday and I believe we should take his word for it."

Lachance again charged the mayor with stalling. Mayor Eyre: "If you want to take that attitude, then we'll forget the whole matter." The Mayor spoke with heat.

"Why are you so reluctant to tell us what you are working on?" Lachance demanded.

"You don't tell everybody what you are working on," the mayor replied, pointedly. "When I have the complete facts I will give you a report and not till then."

"Are we to consider the Monday will be the final day?" J. P. Bartleman.

"Yes, you will have my then," the mayor said, "I do me to do something in which took you nine months out?"

At this point Frank chairman of the Timm Association rose to backed the citizens' c that they opposed the bus bylaw 1027 till su figures were produced to it had been rescinded.

"Are you making this investigation yourself," Mr. Lachance asked the mayor. "Myself," the mayor replied. "Is every member of council going to make a separate investigation of this matter?" Mr. Lachance asked. "If so we will be here till next December."