

B.C. LEADER OF L.P.P. OUSTED

The August 18th issue of "Canadian Tribune" reporting on the Labour Progressive Party National Committee meeting contains an interesting item under the screaming headline "L.P.P. Expels McKEAN Exposed as Traitor and Disruptionist". The entire article is given up to branding Fergus McKEAN as a traitor and conspirator. This compelling story of a Communist provincial leaders' political demise opens with the statement that Fergus McKEAN was expelled from the Party by a unanimous vote taken during the meeting on August 12th. According to the article this action uprooted at the source "a brazen attempt at a conspiracy made at beheading and ultimately destroying the Marxist Party of the Canadian working class".

It was reported that his situation developed after the publication and discussion of Jacques DUCLOS' article. McKEAN was charged that he had used this discussion as a cover for initiating a campaign of slander against the Party.

McKEAN Answers Charges

The article reports that Fergus McKEAN attended this National Committee meeting and was given an opportunity to answer the charges and state his position. McKEAN it seems spoke for two hours using as his main thesis the elimination of the L.P.P. from the political life of Canada under cover of the fight against revisionism. Evidently these proceedings took place on August 10th.

Further Charges Laid

Further charges of no doubt a more serious nature in the eyes of the Party were brought against McKEAN by W.A. KARDASH of Winnipeg, on Sunday, August 12th. In his address to the meeting he charged that McKEAN during a conversation with him (KARDASH) had made certain slanderous allegations. These he said were to the effect that Tim BUCK, Sam CARR, Tom McEWEN and Tom HILL "had become 'agents provocateurs' as the price of their release from Kingston penitentiary in 1935". According to KARDASH, McKEAN had also charged that the policy of the Labour Progressive Party was a betrayal of socialism in the labour movement.

Shocking

These disclosures made by KARDASH were described as "shocking" and resulted in the National Committee forthwith instructing a Review Committee to confront Fergus McKEAN with the charges made. Oscar KOGAN's name was also mentioned in the article indicating that McKEAN had voiced his feelings to both KARDASH and KOGAN.

McKEAN Wouldn't Backwater

It is reported that the Review Committee so set up, sat for five hours and gave McKEAN every opportunity to substantiate his charges. The report goes on to indicate that McKEAN supported the reputed charges against the Party leaders by quoting from various pamphlets including one by Johannes BUCHNER bearing the title "The Agent Provocateur in the Labour Movement". McKEAN, it seems, failed to substantiate his charges but refused to renounce his opinions. Furthermore he declared his complete opposition to the policy of the Labour Progressive Party and his resolute determination to continue such opposition. This, of course, is the picture of the proceeding as given by the "Canadian Tribune".

Guilty Expelled

The Review Committee, so the article states, found that McKEAN had deliberately set out to organize a conspiracy calculated to undermine confidence in the leadership of the L.P.P. and so destroy that Party as a political organization. It recommended that McKEAN be expelled and that a further investigation be conducted to determine "the degree to which Fergus McKEAN's conspiracy permeated the Party in British Columbia as well as Alberta and other parts of Canada".

The closing paragraphs of the National Committee statement refer to McKEAN as "an unprincipled traitor and disruptionist" bitterly criticizing him for propagating a monstrous lie. This rather interesting article concludes by stating that the National Committee directed the incoming National Executive to eliminate completely "every vestige of McKEAN's influences."

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