

Communist Union Control Is Charged In Vancouver

By JOHN LOBLANC
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP)—The Seafarers' Union (Ind.) has charged that Communists control the new Vancouver waterfront local of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers (CLC).
As the two potent unions went to the mat before the Canada Labor Relations Board in their fight for west coast shipping domination, the SIU threw Communist allegations. But board chairman C. Rhodes Smith indicated doubt as to whether they would affect the outcome.
In one of 13 cases before the board in which the 40,000-member brotherhood is trying to chase the Seafarers off the west coast, two SIU members put Communist tags on two local officers of the anti-Communist brotherhood's new west coast marine local.
One officer admitted he was a former Communist but out of the party for four years. The other was not present.
CHARGES SMEAR
Brotherhood counsel charged "smear" by the 10,000-member Seafarers, which rode to its strength on an anti-Communist cleanup among seamen about 10 years ago but since has been kicked out of the Canadian Labor Congress for raiding another CLC union.
Thomas Osborne, Vancouver seaman describing himself as a former Communist who quit the party in 1953 and now is a member of the SIU, said he had seen James Cocks, now provisional president of the new Vancouver local, playing Labor Progressive (Communist) Party dues some years ago.

He said Cocks had told him six months ago he was still active in the Communist movement.
The 26-year-old Cocks, taking the stand shortly afterward, said he was a member of the Communist party in 1954 and 1955 but has had no connection with it since.
As to Osborne's claim of any recent Cocks affiliation with the Communists, the brotherhood official said he has not talked to Osborne for a couple of years.
Another SIU witness — west coast organizer Norman Cunningham — said William Brannigan, now financial secretary of the brotherhood's western marine local, was a Communist in 1949. He did not indicate how he might know this.
Questioned about this, Cocks said he knows nothing of Brannigan's political activities.
AIR OF DOUBT
Board members had an air of dubiousness as to how much weight was to be attached to the communism claims involving the local, particularly in view of the fact that the case before it was brought by the brotherhood as a whole, known for militant anti-communism.
Chairman Smith said the SIU would have to show something beyond "just membership" in the Communist party by individuals to affect the brotherhood's case for certification as bargaining agent for British-Yukon Navigation Limited.
The Seafarers have been dealing with that company—but without a federal certification — and the brotherhood now claims a majority of the employees on its single ship and the right to take over dealings with the company.

It is a test round in a fight between the two hefty unions that began several months ago and may expect to toughen next year when the brotherhood tries flexing its muscles in the SIU stronghold of the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes shipping.
Thirteen SIU—hold companies on the west coast now are under the gun of the brotherhood, which has become free to raid the Seafarers since their recent expulsion from the congress.
At Thursday's hearing, SIU counsel Duncan K. MacTavish of Ottawa said the SIU contends that the brotherhood's west coast local has come under "Communist control."
At the outset he indicated there would be "arresting" disclosures and offered to produce evidence behind closed doors if the committee wished. Mr. MacTavish is a former president of the National Liberal Federation.
CALLS IT A SQUIB
When the SIU evidence was finished, brotherhood lawyer Maurice Wright of Ottawa de-

scribed it as a "sneak" presumably meaning something like a small firecracker.
Mr. MacTavish had made clear that no attempt was being made to impugn the brotherhood generally, which he described as a highly respected union.
However, Mr. Wright contended that SIU witnesses were trying to "smear" brotherhood members and suggest "guilt by association" of the type sponsored by the late Senator Joseph McCarthy of the United States.
Mr. Wright said there should be no "witch hunts" in this country, and the chairman said there would be none before the board.
He eventually reserved decision after Mr. Wright had asked for quick certification of the brotherhood without a vote and the SIU had asked for a rejection of the brotherhood application.

BEDEQUE
Mrs. Boswell Jenkins, Mt. Allison, recently spent several days in this village as guest of Mrs. Edna Jenkins.
Mr. W.B. Leard and his mother, Souris, were recent visitors here with friends. They also paid a visit to Summerside, where they spent some time with Mrs. Leard's brother, Rev. George Ayers.
Miss Hazel Hoggood, Charlotte-

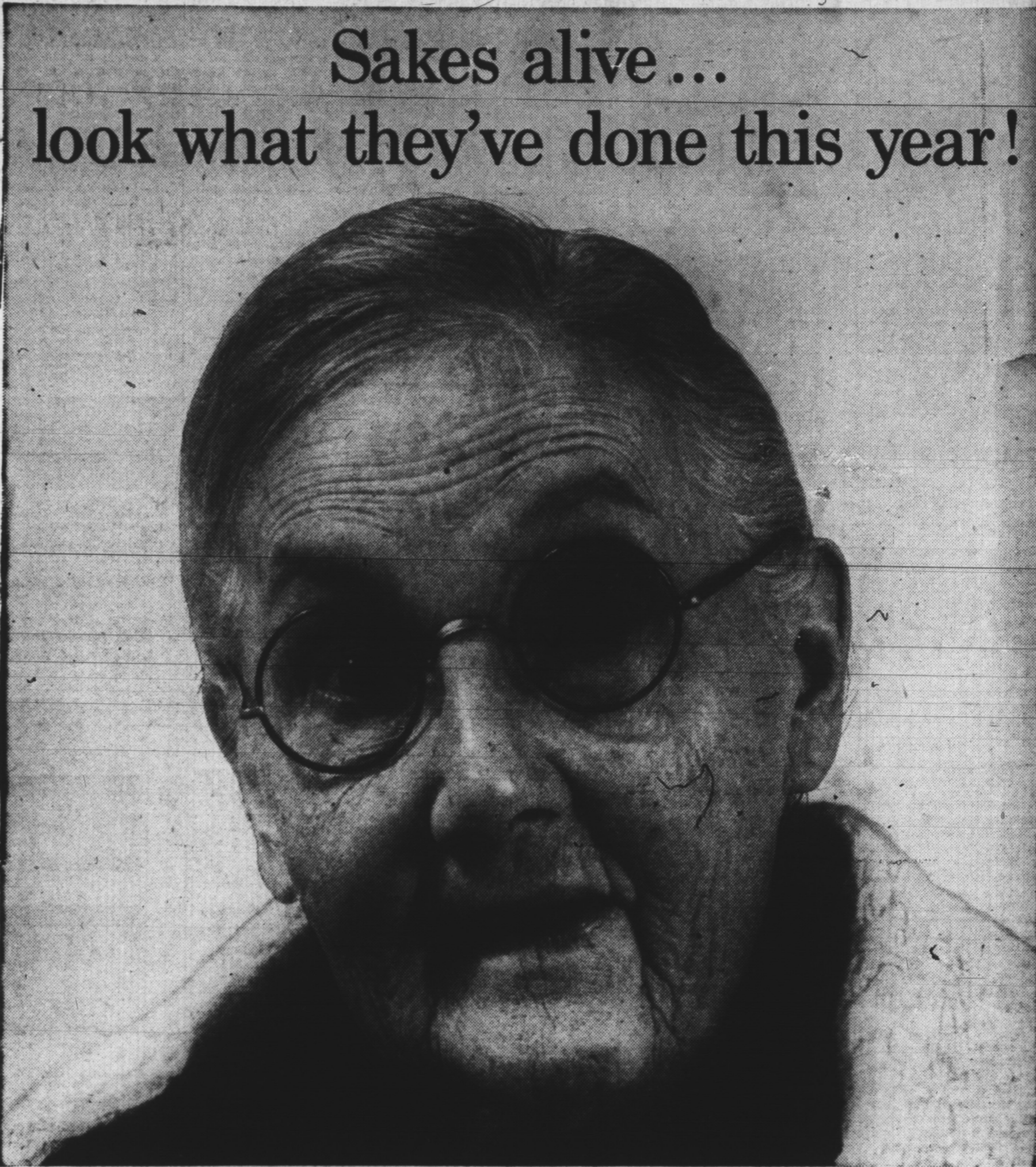
ton, and Mrs. Oscar MacKay, New London, were guests of Rev. and Mrs. E.S. Weeks, on September 12th.
Mr. and Mrs. David Reid, Toronto, are vacationing at the home of Mr. Reid's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Reid, Middleton.
Miss Edith Wetmore, Sackville, spent the weekend at the home of her sister, Mrs. Arthur Mur-

ray and Mr. Murray.
Mrs. Walter Roberts, North Winochee, was a recent guest of her mother here, Mrs. Carrie Reeves.
Mrs. (Dr.) Edward B. Barnhill, and Mrs. Grace DeMarsh of Sackville, N.B. were recent guests of Rev. Ernest and Mrs. Weeks and Rev. and Mrs. Harold O'Brien. Mrs. Barnhill's two sons accom-

panied them. Mrs. Barnhill, Mrs. DeMarsh and Mrs. Weeks paid a brief visit to Kensington and Cavendish.
The Bedeque United Church congregation was represented by the following men at the Stanhope Beach Inn Conference over the weekend: Messrs. Ralph Callbeck, W.J. Reid, Sidney Murray, Ronald Wright Norman Montgomery, George Wright, Harold Leard,

Clare Hottel and Billy Gray, B.Q.
Laos Mission Gets Cheers
VIENTIANE, Laos (Reuters)—Cheering crowds Tuesday greeted the United Nations fact-finding mission appointed by the Secur-

ity Council to report on the rebels in Laos.
Laotian children at the airport waved UN flags as the four-country, 15-man group stepped from an Air Laos airliner which brought them from Bangkok, Thailand.
The plane took off immediately afterward to drop barbed wire to Laotian army outposts harassed by pro-Communist rebels in Sam Neua province of northeast Laos.



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