

# 4 RESIGN FROM CANADIAN LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY

TORONTO, May 16 — Four prominent members of the Canadian Labor-Progressive Party announced their resignations today. They are J. B. Salsberg, former member of the Ontario Legislature; Stewart Smith, former Toronto City Controller; Harry Binder, former party national treasurer; and Sam Lipschitz, a former editor of the Canadian Jewish Weekly.

In a prepared statement, the four declared that historic changes demanded new thinking, with a "socialist future based on the specific conditions and historic background of each country."

"The need for new approaches was underscored by the shocking revelations of the terrible crimes and injustices that had been committed in the Soviet Union under the Stalin regime and in other countries under its influence", they said.

They charged that the "LPP is unwilling to make a break with its deeply-rooted sectarianism and Stalinist methods of work and thinking". They said the party had refused to protest against last year's events in Poland and Hungary, and against the "unjust, anti-socialist actions of the Soviet leadership toward Jewish culture and those of other nationalities."

The National Executive Committee of the Labor-Progressive Party had earlier issued the following press statement:

On May 4, the Toronto Globe and Mail published an interview by Ralph Hyman with J. B. Salsberg. The interview was quoted on the radio and in other newspapers.

Members of our party were shocked to read this interview by a Tory paper with a leading member of our party only two weeks after its sixth national convention, where his views were freely expressed and debated. Prior to the convention an active three-month discussion had been held.

At the convention, the delegates gave J. B. Salsberg an hour to explain his views, although delegates were limited to ten minutes because of the shortage of time.

The convention rejected by a vote of 121 to 9, with 14 abstaining, J. B. Salsberg's view on the LPP, which is that it should be replaced by "a new socialist realignment."

The convention made ample provision by its Declaration on the

Party and in a revised Constitution for the expression of different opinions within the party and our executive and members are pledged to put this into practice. Meanwhile all members are called upon to carry out the decisions made by majority vote, as is customary in democratic organizations. In the coming discussion of the party's program and in the work of special committees which the convention decided should be set up to study a number of other questions, all views within the party will continue to be debated.

J. B. Salsberg's interview concealed these facts and instead indicated that he will lead a movement for what the interview described as "ideological clarity" outside of the LPP.

However, the convention expressed the unmistakable will of the members of the party when it rejected all proposals to dissolve it or revise the principles on which it is founded. It also declared that organized factions within the party are not permitted.

Quite obviously the Globe and Mail is interested in making political capital for the capitalists out of the discussion in the LPP. That is why it gives page one prominence to J. B. Salsberg's present views while consistently refusing to give any space to the press statements of our party on public affairs, as J. B. Salsberg knows from his experience with the daily press while he was in the Ontario legislature.

The National Executive Committee deplores J. B. Salsberg's interview with the Globe and Mail. His declaration of intention to lead a movement against the LPP and to publish a paper in opposition to the policies decided upon by the national convention must be condemned as a violation of the established democratic procedure of the labor movement; it was a disservice to the labor movement.

Corresponding with the overriding need to emphasize the unity of the party and the fact that the NEC should have sought earlier to initiate discussions, we are instructing the national officers of the party to discuss these matters with Comrade Salsberg now.

The National Executive Committee calls upon Comrade Salsberg to stop using the capitalist press to air his opposition to the decision of

## Retail Pay

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Labor Department figure of 20 percent of all retail employes who now make less than \$1 hourly.

About 1,568,580 retail employes now make lower than \$1 an hour with some going below 50 cents. Of these, about 45 percent are in the South, and most of these are women.

Sam Kovenetsky, Local I-S president, stressed that, according to the Labor Department figures, the smaller retail employers are paying higher average wages than do the big department and variety chains.

The RCIA, in its testimony at current New Orleans hearings of a House Labor subcommittee, indicated it would use the Labor Dept report to help prove its case that the retail employe in the South is earning far below minimum subsistence standards and needs federal help.

The minimum pay issue, "top priority" on the AFL-CIO legislative program at this session, is creeping along in Congress.

The Senate Labor Committee now has before it the recommendations of its subcommittee which conducted hearings on bills earlier this year. The House Labor subcommittee has just started hearings in different cities.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore), a sponsor of the AFL-CIO-backed bill blasted the watered down measure of his fellow Democrat, Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass) which the Senate Labor subcommittee approved and passed on to the full committee.

The Kennedy bill would include only an additional five to six million workers under the federal minimum pay law, with overtime pay after 40 hours over a gradual three-year period.

Morse was supported by Sen. Matthew Neely (D-W Va). But Kennedy was joined by another Democrat, Sen. McNamara of Michigan and three Republicans giving a majority for his measure.

The Kennedy bill was reported without recommendation, however, which allows wide-open discussion and amendment in the full Senate.

A spokesman for McNamara, said that he had voted for the Kennedy bill because he didn't think Morse's measure had a chance.

the national convention. Those decisions include provisions to assure opportunity for J. B. Salsberg and every member of the party to make his views known in the party while abiding by decisions arrived at by the majority.