
Special Convention Call — United Communist Party

[Call for the Special 2nd Convention, Dec. 1920]

Document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 928, file 202600-391.
Also transcribed in Jan. 14, 1921 report of Agent Jacob Spolansky, Chicago, *ibid.*

A special convention of the United Communist Party, the main section of the Third (Communist) International in America, is imperative. The Third (Communist) International, together with its Executive Committee, have called upon the parties affiliated with it to immediately hold special conventions for the purpose of considering the adopting the theses and statutes of the Second Congress of the Third (Communist) International [Petrograd & Moscow: July 19-Aug. 7, 1920]. The program and tactics of all affiliated parties must be brought into conformity with these new theses and statutes so that the red proletarian army the world over may understand and act as one man in the war against world imperialism.

All affiliations of the United Communist Party are therefore called upon to action. The constitutional requirements for the special convention are:

Art. 8, Sec. 3: Districts shall apportion delegates to sub-divisions in such manner that no sub-division shall elect more than one delegate. Provided that such apportionment must be proportionate to membership.

[Art. 8] Sec. 4: Delegates to national convention shall be paid railroad expenses and the same per diem as party officials.

The Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party has ruled that sub-divisions do not necessarily have to elect as delegates members residing in the electoral sub-division.

That is, any sub-division may elect as delegate any member of the party. An alternate should be elected for every delegate.

Elections shall proceed in the following manner:

The District Organizer shall send each electoral sub-division the limits of its electorate. Awaiting receipt of this, every group will at once elect its group elector. Upon receipt from your District Organizer of the limits of your electoral sub-division, every group in such sub-division will send its elector to the branch electoral unit, same to be composed of no more than 10 group electors. The branch electoral unit will elect 1 branch elector and these branch electors shall meet in groups of no more than 10 and elect a section elector — and so on, the last unit of at least 10 electors so elected shall elect the delegate and alternate to the special convention.

The limit of time for the completing of the election of the delegates and alternates will be communicated to you by the District Organizer. Candidates for delegates and alternates shall be designated by their assumed names only. Delegates and alternates elected shall be reported to the District Organizer through the regular party channels.

To cover the expenses of this special national convention the cooperation of every member is asked in the immediate sale of organization stamps. Every member is called upon to purchase

one organization stamp for November and one for December [1920].

The theses and statutes as well as the manifesto of the Second Congress of the Third (Communist) International will reach the membership before the convention. Discussion of these documents should be had at once. All electors, as well as delegates and alternates, should acquaint themselves fully with these official declarations of the International.

The Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party has suggested changes in the party's constitution. These will also reach the groups before the convention. Instructions to all electors by their parent bodies and consequent instructions to delegates are, of course, in order.

The theses and statutes of the Third (Communist) International, restating our party program to meet their requirements, shaping policies and tactics to meet the latest developments in the field of the class struggle, revising the party constitution-theses, among other things, will constitute the agenda for the convention.

Begin the election of electors AT ONCE.
Begin the study of the theses and statutes at once.
Begin the purchase of organization stamps AT ONCE. ACT!!

Fraternally,

Central Executive Committee,
United Communist Party.

Paul Holt [Alfred Wagenknecht],
Executive Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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