
Statement to the Members of the Communist Party of America and United Communist Party from the American Agency of ECCL, Feb. 17, 1921.

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 280.

To the Members of the Communist Party
and United Communist Party:

Comrades:

The undersigned delegates of the Communist Party and the United Communist Party to the Second Congress of the Communist International [July 19-Aug. 7, 1920] were designated by the Executive Committee of the International to see that its decision for unity in the American Communist movement was realized in life.

Upon our arrival and investigation of the situation, we were convinced that a deadlock had been reached which could be broken only by further intervention by the Executive Committee of the Communist International, and this time in such a form that neither party could evade the issue. Having come to this conclusion, we wished to end the factional controversy on unity, which is demoralizing our movement, until the Communist International compels complete unity. To this end we proposed the following plan:

That each CEC elect 3 members to a National Council; that this Council shall function in the name of "The Communist Party of America (Unified)"; that it shall issue a central organ, which shall have two editors, one from each party; that it shall publish literature, issue proclamations, and carry on as much work as the two parties shall agree to, jointly; that the two parties shall maintain their organizations intact and continue to publish all their papers except the central organ [*The Communist*]; that each party shall submit

a detailed statement to the Executive Committee of the International on why unity has not been accomplished and what are the real issues which divide the parties, so that the Executive Committee shall itself instruct the unity convention how to decide on these controversial questions.

It is not our task to pass judgment on the two parties in this matter; but it is our task to try and end the factional controversy, even if only by a semblance of unity.

The CEC of the Communist Party rejected our proposal, declaring that it is unworkable and in contradiction to the instructions on unity of their recent convention [Extraordinary 3rd: Brooklyn, Feb. 1921].

The CEC of the United Communist Party accepted our proposal in principle, while making certain amendments, which they thought would make the plan work better.

To our regret we have, accordingly, been unable to break the deadlock.

We shall accordingly report to the Executive Committee that we cannot break the deadlock, and we shall make definite concrete suggestions to the Communist International on how to break the deadlock and how to realize actual unity — unity of a character which shall give factional control to neither party, but which shall be the unity desired by the International itself and in accord with the requirements of the American movement.

In the meanwhile, we call upon the CEC and the membership of both parties not to make factional capital out of our proposal, which was intended to end the factional struggle. We declare that to use our

proposal in a factional spirit is to indicate desire for control and not for real unity.

It is futile for each party to try to crush the other — that demoralizes the movement and makes unity in the real sense still more difficult to accomplish. We therefore call upon you comrades to stay in the party where you are now, to have patience and not increase the bitterness which prevails among us, and give the Executive Committee of the Communist International time to act, finally and authoritatively.

Louis C. Fraina,
Communist Party of America.

Charles E. Scott [Karlis Janson],
United Communist Party of America.

Feb. 27th, 1921.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.