
Minutes of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America, January 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 94, l. 1.

International Situation.

Secretary [William Weinstone] read statement from the Executive Committee of the Communist International reporting that it holds the tactics of the majority of the CEC to be absolutely correct.

Motion: To take all possible precautions regarding the transmission of this statement among the groups, and that as many of the groups as can be reached should receive this immediately. Carried.

Motion: To inform the CI of the arrangements and proposed plans of #2 [the Workers Party of America] and of the Carter [Louis Fraina] situation. Carried.

Motion: To wire Carter [Fraina] through A [Argentine] and M [Mexican] parties, regarding decisions of the [American] Agency. Carried.

Motion: That Brown [Max Bedacht] be instructed to remain for the February conference and return [from Soviet Russia] immediately thereafter.

Motion: To defer action until next meeting. Carried.

Com. Ballister [Robert Minor] reported on his negotiations with the opposition [Central Caucus faction].

(1) Read document to their “national conference” and reported to them as messenger from the CI.

(2) He then read the document again to Henry [George Ashkenudzie], Curtis [John Ballam], and Johnson [member of the CEC of the old CPA, per-

haps an alternate pseudonym of Charles Dirba, as opposed to the “Johnson” who was Karlis Jansons/“Charles Scott” of the UCP]. They answered that they will not obey the decision of the Comintern and will fight the #2 [WPA]. They also informed Com. Ballister [Minor] that they sent a delegate to Russia.

Motion: That a full report of the #2 [WPA] be drawn up, advising the CI of how far we have carried out its instructions and of our plans. Carried. Raphael [Alexander Bittelman], Cook [Jim Cannon], and Ballister [Minor] nominated as committee — carried.

Organization Matters.

The general Party situation discussed.

Motion: That a statement be issued to the membership dealing with the Party situation and problems. Carried.

Motion: That Griffith [Joseph Kornfeder] and Nelson [Jay Lovestone] be the sub-committee. Carried.

Motion: That an appeal be issued to the membership of the opposition informing them that the CEC will gladly recommend them back to the Party at any time they are ready to accept the decision of the CI. Carried.

Motion: That the Party have first call on the Thesis and Statues of the Third Congress and that all District Organizers be instructed to organize classes on the same, immediately; to report their educational plans to the CEC as soon as formulated, and to line up the whole organization in this drive. Carried.

Motion: That Com. Wheat [Lovestone] help Com. Lewis [Will Weinstone] in the National Office. Carried.

Motion: That Com. Ganly [Thomas O'Flaherty] be engaged as an assistant on the editorial staff of the Official Organ [*The Communist*]. Carried.

Motion: That CEC representatives tour the country and report on the conditions prevailing in the party. Carried.

Motion: That Com. Griffith [Kornfeder] cover Districts 4 [Cleveland] and 6 [Detroit]; Raphael [Bittelman] Districts 5 [Chicago], 12 [Minneapolis], and 7 [St. Louis]; and Com. Lewis [Weinstone] Districts 11 [Pittsburgh] and 3 [Philadelphia]. Carried.

Report of Organization Committee.

Motion: That the Secretary [Weinstone] shall have [to obtain] approval first of the Organization Committee for expenditures of money over \$50. Carried.

Motion: That the \$1,000 received by Com. Cook [Cannon] from Smith [Noah London], be applied to

the \$3,500 loan to his department and that the remaining \$2,500 be given in installments. Carried.

Motion: That Scott [Karlis Jansons] be sent the \$150. Carried.

Motion: That the universal wage scale be abolished and that wages be paid according to locality and character of work on the following basis:

\$25 to 35 — for single.

\$30 to 40 — for one dependent.

\$40 to 45 — for more than one dependent.

Carried.

Motion: That the District Executive Committees and Federation Bureaus are to fix the wages of District Organizers and others on this basis. Carried.

Motion: That the above basis shall also serve as a guide to fix salaries of employees in party-controlled institutions. Carried.

Motion: That the application of Com. Dow [Charles Dirba] for \$1500 to be returned by Com. Jones [Edgar Owens, head of the party's legal defense operations] be left in the hands of Com. Jones [Owens] until further notice. Carried.

Note: *The subsequent meeting of the Central Executive Committee made an amendment to these minutes noting that the January 1922 session was not a meeting of the full CEC, but rather of the "resident members" of that committee. Note also that there was no precise meeting date for the January 1922 session specified in the minutes.*

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Second Edition (May 2005): Adds attribution of Smith = Noah London.

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