
Letter to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America from C.E. Ruthenberg in Ossining, NY, March 14, 1922.

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354 Hunter St., Ossining, NY
March 14, 1922.

Dear _____,

(1) The Executive Committee, in January 1920, some time prior to the development of the matter in which Comrade Lovestone was involved, had directly instructed Comrade Rose Stokes to make an appearance in a similar situation and enforced its decision against her wishes.

(2) The transaction which involved Comrade Lovestone also involved [Isaac] Ferguson and Rose Stokes. At first it was thought that certain legal provisions would relieve them from any responsibility and make their appearance unnecessary, but while the matter was pending the state legislature changed the situation by amending the law covering it. There was no meeting of the Executive Committee when the new situation arose and the matter was not put before it for decision. On the basis of the ruling stated in point 1, I personally gave instructions to Lovestone and Ferguson to make an appearance and also telephoned Rose Stokes, giving her the same instructions.

(3) Later there was an investigation regarding Comrade Lovestone's appearance and statements by

the Executive Committee. At that investigation I assumed all responsibility for Comrade Lovestone having appeared, citing as my authority the previous ruling of the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee was that in view of my instructions, Comrade Lovestone was exonerated from all responsibility for his appearance, leaving open only the question of what he said. The minutes of the Executive Committee covering this exoneration are in my possession and I will have them brought to New York and turned over to you, if necessary.

(4) As to what Comrade Lovestone said, Ferguson requests me to say that he was present during the proceedings and Comrade Lovestone followed the instructions given him by the attorney representing Comrade Winitsky, and further, that he has read and studied the proceedings and that there is nothing that Comrade Lovestone said that was not already a part of the proceedings and that nothing he said could have been of any material effect in influencing the outcome.

I trust that this statement will serve to close up this matter definitely and relieve Comrade Lovestone from any further annoyance about it.

C.E. Ruthenberg,
(No. 17624).

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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