
Bi-Weekly Newsletter #4 of the National Office, CP of A (Section of the CI), April 3, 1922.

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Convention.

Preparations for the Convention are in full swing. The Districts are busily at work raising their quotas. Throughout the country there are discussions on the agenda. The CEC has sent out several of the Theses and others are soon to follow. Official Organ [*The Communist*] No. 8 will contain the complete set of Theses. All Districts are called upon to arrange these discussions with as much frequency as possible. This activity is of paramount importance to the Party. It is absolutely necessary to make these meetings successful as only a thorough discussion of the problems confronting our organization will insure a healthy growth of the Party. The membership can greatly facilitate the arrangements by carrying out promptly and accurately all instructions regarding the Convention.

The "Opposition."

Throughout the preparation for the launching of the Number 2 [Workers Party of America] the CEC has tried its best to reach as many members as possible with the message of the CI. The International Delegate [Robert Minor] was toured, several CEC members were sent to the Districts and the Official Organ [*The Communist*] filled its columns with a discussion of this problem. Despite this a number of our members were misled by 3 saboteurs of Communism who happened to find themselves in the CEC.† Their crimi-

nal splitting activities has caused a rift in our ranks, and has unquestionably hurt the Party. Not even the patience of the Party authorities could stay the hand of the disruptionists — self-appointed saviors of Pure Communism in America.

The CI has since sustained the CEC in every step it has taken in the formation of the Number 2 [WPA]. The CEC sent representations to the "Convention" of the Oppositionists [Jan. 7-12, 1922] in order to induce them to accept the decision of the CI. They answered they were a Section of the CI, refused to recognize the document as a genuine communication from the CI, and spurned all efforts at getting together. We then sent the recently returned International Delegate [Minor] with the CI decision to tour the country and make special efforts to present the decision to the Minority membership. We succeeded in arranging many meetings of Minority members despite the vicious interference of their criminal misleaders. Many groups that had gone over to the Minority or had remained neutral at first returned to the Party after they heard the report of the International Delegate [Minor] and were fully informed about the attitude of the CI. This is happening right along and many are returning to the Party. An offer of immediate full reinstatement to membership on the basis of acceptance of the CI decision and Party discipline was made to them. An order was sent out to all Districts to permit those who were disconnected in the course of the disruption to elect delegates to the Convention

†- Reference is to George Ashkenuzi ("Henry"), Charles Dirba ("Dow"), and John Ballam ("Curtis"). These were 3 of the 5 members of the CEC who hailed from the old CPA. In the summer of 1921 the 2 other former members of the old CPA on the CEC, J. Wilenkin and Joseph Stilson, began voting *en bloc* with the 5 CEC members hailing from the former United Communist Party. Ill feelings over personnel decisions and bitter disagreement over the tactical decision to immediately establish a parallel "Legal Political Party" lead to the split of the CEC minority and a large section of the old CPA in the fall of 1921. This dissident Left Wing initially styled itself as the "Central Caucus" and proclaimed itself the legitimate Communist Party of America in January 1922.

upon acceptance of Party authority. But it was all of no avail to the misleaders of the rank and file of the Opposition. Their answer has been a vicious agent provocateur attack on the Number 2 [WPA], intensified disruption all along the line, a raid and an attempt to secure the aid of the judiciary and police powers of the government in order to take away from us some property sorely needed by them to continue their campaign of destruction against the American Section of the CI.

We have informed the CI of this conduct on the part of the former members of the CI. We have supplied the CI with all the publications of the spurious "CP" and the CI has answered that the representative of this self-styled Party will receive a hot welcome when he reaches International Headquarters. As per our request several comrades high in the esteem of the misled Communists will soon be sent to us by the CI to help us in our efforts to unite the Communist forces of America.† We have already had considerable success in winning back to the Party a good number of comrades through the activities of one of these returned comrades. We have also arranged to have several of the language sections of the CI issue special appeals to the various Language Bureaus of the Party to abide by the decision of the Comintern.

The comrades throughout the country are asked to send in additional suggestions to help us get more results in this field. The largest sub-district in District 2 [New York City] at a recent delegated membership meeting voted overwhelmingly to support the policy assumed by the CEC towards the Opposition. An expression of opinion and recommendations towards the solution of this question would be very helpful. The coming issue of the Official Organ [*The Communist*] will have a special appeal to the Minority membership to sum up the situation.

The International.

One of our delegates who participated actively in the last Conference of the Comintern [Max Bedacht] will soon be with us. All Districts should be fully pre-

pared to arrange meetings for him so as to enable the entire membership to discuss intelligently the new problems of the Party and the CI. Special effort will be made to acquaint the members with the policy of the United Front. If funds permit there will be published a special pamphlet containing some of the leading speeches made on this question at the February International Conference.‡

At this Conference our member of the EC of the CI [Ludwig Katterfeld] was elected as one of the 7 members of the Presidium and a member of its Organization Department. A special International Agrarian Conference is to be held within a few months and our Agrarian Organizer [Harold Ware] is especially invited. The CI is highly satisfied with our B [Friends of Soviet Russia] activities. The organization of the T [Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia] is fully endorsed and looked upon with much favor. We have also made arrangements to secure more intense relief activities by special measures of cooperation with the CI.

A special Pan-American Conference of the delegates to the 4th Congress [of the CI] will be held and our Convention as indicated by the agenda will make preparations to ensure the success of this gathering.

The Miners' Strike.

Most of our activities in accordance with the plan given in the last Bulletin will be through the #2 [WPA]. For the first time in the history of our existence as a Party will we have speakers engaged directly in the strike areas. A leaflet and proclamation to the miners, as well as the regular nuclei work of our Industrial Department, are part of our effort to rally the strikers.

The Number Two [WPA].

The organizational side of the Number Two [WPA] is steadily being strengthened. The membership is increasing and the financial difficulties are being cleared. We must spare no effort to strengthen the Number Two [WPA]. A strong membership campaign

†- Apparently a reference to Genrik Valetski, John Pepper, and Boris Reinstein, who were dispatched from Moscow and attended the ill-fated Bridgman Convention of the CPA in August 1922.

‡- The "International Conference" in question was the 1st Enlarged Plenum of ECCL, held in Moscow from Feb. 22-March 4, 1922.

coupled with intense activity will help tremendously. Special effort must be made by the non-English speaking comrades to get into the work and life of the Number Two [WPA].

Industrial.

The National Industrial Department has been moved so as to facilitate our connections with the militant sections of the labor movement and to increase the cooperation of the Left elements in the unions for a concerted attack on the bureaucracy.† All communications will from now on come from the Industrial Department directly.

Agrarian.

The plan of the CEC for our immediate agrarian work has met with full success. Our Agrarian Organizer [Harold Ware] has succeeded in organizing sufficient strength to deal a severe blow to one of the most noted reformist leaders in the farm organizations. We have laid the basis for increased activities in this field.

Finances.

The Secretary [Jay Lovestone] has completely revised the National budget and expenses have been reduced by \$400 per week. We are now running on a most rigidly economical basis. Special appeals have been issued to every DO and [Language] Bureau to cut expenses to a minimum. While the situation is improving there is still great need for further help to

the Party. Immediate and active cooperation on this end will go a long way toward enhancing our party activities.

Federations.

The CEC has appointed a special committee to investigate the conditions in the Jewish and Russia Federations with a view of improving their organization. A complete plan to revive their activities is being considered. The Lettish [Latvian] Bureau has been reorganized and its connections are being reestablished throughout the country.‡ We are making considerable inroads among the members of the Polish and Ukrainian Opposition.§

Press and Publications.

Official Organ [*The Communist*] No. 8, containing a facsimile copy of the CI decision on the Minority appeal, a complete set of the CEC Theses on the agenda, an Appeal to the Minority, and other articles of timely interest to the Party, is now on press.

The ABC of Communism [by Nikolai Bukharin and Evgenii Preobrazhensky] is now ready for distribution and all members can secure same for themselves and sympathizers through the Literature Department of the Number Two [WPA]. Through these same channels we are contemplating the publication in complete of Lenin's *Imperialism*.

L.C. Wheat [Jay Lovestone],
Executive Secretary, CP of A.

†- Apparently a reference to a move of Industrial Department operations from New York to Chicago.

‡- Members of the Latvian Federation were arguably the staunchest supporters of the Central Caucus faction Opposition. Reference here is not to the removal and "reorganization" of an undesirable Federation leadership, but rather to the complete reorganization of the Latvian Federation from the ground up.

§- Again, these were two more of the main centers of strength of the Central Caucus Opposition. The other language groups supporting the Central Caucus included elements of the Lithuanian, Russian, and Jewish Federations.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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