
Letter to the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America in Chicago from Benjamin Gitlow in Chicago, November 21, 1924.

A document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 375, l. 222.

November 21st, 1924.

To the Members of the CEC.

Dear Comrades:—

I have received no definite assignment to Party work since my removal from the *Freiheit*.† The CEC has repeatedly refused to consider my status in the Party. I have many times been nominated before the committee for the position of Eastern District Industrial Organizer and have personally written requesting that assignment. Each time the matter came before the committee I was voted down. A non-CEC member was appointed to that place. I ask the committee to reconsider their action on this matter because I now once more formally make application for this position. My knowledge of the labor movement, particularly in the East, and my following among the comrades and workers in the Eastern District makes me especially fitted for that position. It is the one position as a CEC member that I can fulfill to the best advantage for the party.

As to your recommendation that I accept the proposal of the Industrial Committee of Dis-

trict 2 [New York] that I become the National Organizer for the silk industry of the Broad Silk Weavers Union, I have the following to state. I absolutely refuse to accept this recommendation. My appointment at this time to that position is only a move to remove me as a CEC member from an important district prior to a convention. However, there are other factors involved that lead me to refuse the recommendation. The Paterson Strike is now in its 16th or 17th week. The strike committee claims about 4,000 workers are striking and 2,000 scabbing. The Broad Silk Weavers Union of Paterson is not the organization that can organize the silk industry because it is being discredited through its conduct in this strike. Anyone who will take over the situation will have to shoulder the burden of all the discredit.

If the CEC is interested in organizing the unorganized in this industry then the CEC should adopt a plan for the organization of the whole textile industry, of which the silk industry is only an insignificant part.

Fraternally yours,

Benj. Gitlow.

†- Gitlow's insertion to — and later removal from — the editor's desk at the WPA's Yiddish-language newspaper were part of ebb and flow of the factional struggle between the Foster group and the Pepper-Ruthenberg group, to which he was loyal.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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