

The Party Constitution

I. Name and Purpose

Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be THE COMMUNIST PARTY of America. Its purpose shall be the education and organization of the working class for the establishment of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, the abolition of the capitalist system and the establishment of the Communist society.

II. Emblem

Sec. 1. The emblem of the party shall be a button with the figure of the earth in the centre in white with gold lines and a red flag across the face bearing the inscription "All Power To The Worker's"; around the figure of the earth a red margin shall appear with the words "The Communist Party of America" and "The Communist International" on this margin in white letters.

III. Membership

Sec. 1. Every person who accepts the principles and tactics of the Communist Party and the Communist International and agrees to engage actively in the work of the party, shall be eligible to membership. It is the aim of this organization to have in its rank only those who participate actively in its work.

Sec. 2. Applicants for membership shall sign an application card reading as follows:

"The undersigned, after having read the constitution and program of the Communist Party, declares his adherence to the principles and tactics of the party and the Communist International; agrees to submit to the discipline of the party as stated in its constitution and pledges himself to engage actively in its work."

Sec. 3. Every member must join a duly constituted branch of the party. There shall be no members-at-large.

Sec. 4. All application cards must be endorsed by two persons who have been members for not less than three months.

Sec. 5. Applications for membership shall not be finally acted upon until two months after presentation to the branch, and in the meantime applicant shall pay initiation fee and dues and shall attend meetings and classes. He shall have a voice and no vote. Provided that this rule shall not apply to the charter members of new branches nor to the members who make application to newly organized branches during the first month.

Sec. 6. No person who is a member or supporter of any other political organization shall be admitted to membership.

Sec. 7. No person who has an entire livelihood from rent, interest or profit shall be eligible to membership in the Communist Party.

Sec. 8. No person shall be accepted as a member who enters into the service of the national state or local governmental bodies otherwise than through the Civil Service, or by legal compulsion.

Provided, that the civil employment by the government is of a non-political character.

Sec. 9. No members of The Communist Party shall contribute articles or editorials of a political or economic character to publications other than those of the Communist Party or of parties affiliated with the Communist International. (This clause shall not be considered as prohibiting the contribution of articles written from an economic or scientific standpoint to scientific or professional journals. Permission to answer an attack upon the Communist Party in the bourgeoisie press may be granted by the Central Executive Committee.

IV. Units of Organization

Sec. 1. The basic organization of the Communist Party shall be branches of not less than seven members. (Applicants for a charter shall fill out the form provided by the National Organization).

Sec. 2. Two or more branches located in the same city shall form a City Central Committee. City Central Committees may include branches in adjacent territory, subject to supervision of the central management of the party.

Sec. 3. City Central Committees and all other branches in the same state shall form State Organizations. Provided, that under the control of

Adopted and Issued by the Convention of the Communist Party

the Central Executive Committee more than one state may be included in a single District Organization; and provided also that District Organizations may be formed by the Central Executive Committee along the lines of industrial rather than state divisions.

Sec. 4. Branches of the Communist Party made up of members who speak a foreign language, when there are ten or more of such branches consisting of a total of not less than 750 members, may form a Language Federation. Provided, that this rule shall not apply as to members of those Federations affiliating with the party at the time of its organization or within four months thereafter. No more than one Federation of the same language may exist in the party.

Sec. 5. All language branches shall join and become part of the Federations of their language if such a Federation exists.

Sec. 6. All subsidiary units shall be combined in the Communist Party. Branches of the cities, states, districts and federations shall be unite of the Communist Party.

Art. V. Administration

Sec. 1. The supreme administrative body of the Communist Party shall be the convention of the party.

Sec. 2. Between the meetings of the conventions the supreme body shall be the Central Executive Committee elected by the convention. The Central Executive Committee shall consist of fifteen members. The convention shall also elect five alternates who shall take their places as members of the Central Executive Committee in case of vacancies in the order of their vote.

Sec. 3. The Central Executive Committee shall elect from its members a sub-committee of five members, who together with the Executive Secretary and the Editor of the central organ of the party shall be known as the Executive Council. The members of the Executive Council shall live in the city in which the National Headquarters are located or in adjacent cities. This Executive Council shall carry on the work of the party under the supervision of the Central Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The Convention shall elect an Executive Secretary and the Editor of the central organ of the party. All other officials shall be appointed by the Central Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. The Executive Secretary and Editor shall conduct their work under the direction of the Central Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. The supreme administrative power of the State, District, Federation or City unite shall be vested in the conventions of these respective units. Conventions of the State or District Organization shall be held in May or June each year.

Sec. 7. Between conventions of the District, State and Federations the Central Executive Committee of these organizations shall be the supreme bodies.

Sec. 8. The Central Executive Committee of these organizations shall in each case be elected by the conventions, which shall also determine the number of members.

Sec. 9. The City Central Committees shall consist of delegates elected by the branches upon the basis of proportional representation. They shall meet at least once each month. The City Central Committees shall elect their Executive Committees and Executive Officers.

Sec. 10. Each Federation shall elect a Translator-Secretary who shall have an office in the National Headquarters and whose salary shall be paid by the National Organization. Translator-Secretaries are the representatives of their organizations in the National Headquarters, and shall serve as mediums of communications. They shall submit monthly to the Executive Secretary and the State and District Organizations a statement showing all the dues stamps sold during the previous month. Translator-Secretaries shall not be eligible to membership in the Central Executive Committee Council but shall meet with the Committee and the Executive Council and have a voice but not vote.

VI. Dues

Sec. 1. Each applicant for membership shall pay an initiation fee of fifty cents which shall

be received for an initiation stamp furnished by the National Organization. The fifty cents shall be divided between the branch and City Central Committee. Where there is no City Central Committee its share shall be paid to the State or District Organization.

Sec. 2. Each member shall pay forty cents per month in dues. Stamps shall be sold to the State or District Organization at fifteen cents; State or District Organizations shall sell stamps to the City Central Committees and branches in cases where there are no City Committees, at twenty five cents; City Central Committees shall sell stamps to branches at thirty cents.

Sec. 3. Branches of Language Federations shall purchase their dues stamps through their Federations. Translator Secretaries shall pay ten cent per stamp to the National Organization and shall remit to each State or District Organization ten cents for each stamp sold each month. Where a City Central Committee exists the State or District Organization shall remit five cents of this amount to the City Central Committee. Members of Language Federations Branches pay forty cents per stamp, ten cents going to the branch and ten cents to the Federation.

Sec. 4. Special assessment may be levied by the National Organization, Federations or the Central Executive Committee. No member shall be considered in good standing unless he purchases such special assessment stamps.

Sec. 5. Husband and wife belonging to the same branch may purchase dual stamps, which shall be sold at the same price as the regular stamps. Special assessments must be paid by both husband and wife.

Sec. 6. Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strikes, sickness or for similar reasons, shall upon application to their financial secretary be furnished exempt stamps. Provided that no State or District Organization or Federation shall be allowed exempt stamps in a proportion greater than 5 per cent of its monthly purchase of regular stamps.

Sec. 7. Members who are three months in arrears in payment of their dues shall cease to be members of the party in good standing. Members who are six months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls. No member shall pay dues in advance for a period of more than three months.

VII. Discipline

Sec. 1. All decisions of the governing bodies of the party shall be binding upon the membership and subordinate units of the organizations.

Sec. 2. Any member or organization violating the decisions of the party shall be subject to expulsion by the organization which has jurisdiction. Charges against members shall be made before branches, subject to appeal by either side to the City Central Committee or State or District Organization where there is no City Central Committee. Charges against the branches shall be made before the City Central Committee, or where there is no City Central Committee before the State or District Organization. Decisions of the City Central Committee in the case of branches shall be subject to revision by the State or District Organization. Charges against State or District Organizations shall be made before the Central Executive Committee. When a City Central Committee expels a Federation branch, the branch shall have the right to present its case to the Central Executive Committee of the Federation. If the Central Executive Committee of the Federation decides to that effect it may bring an appeal for reinstatement before the Central Executive Committee of the party which shall make final disposition of the matter.

Sec. 3. Members and branches of the Federation shall be subject to the discipline of the Federation. Branches expelled by the Federation shall have the right to appeal to the City Central Committee, or, when there is no City Central Committee, to the State or District Organization. If the City Central Committee or the State or District Organization does not uphold the expulsion the matter shall be referred to the Central Executive Committee upon documentary evidence and if the decision of the City Central Committee or State or District Organization is upheld, the branch shall be reinstated as a branch of the Federation.

Sec. 4. Each unit of the party organization