

# THE COMMUNIST

ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS!

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

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## The Coming Convention of the Communist Party

APPEAL TO THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Comrades:

The Central Executive Committee recognizes the necessity for a party convention in order to settle finally the differences that have been seething within the party for a long time and which came to a climax at last in the form of the present "secession movement" led by the former Executive Secretary and two members of the C. E. C.

The C. E. C. recognizes that the membership also demands a convention for the same reasons. Therefore, this being the earnest and general desire of the party, **THE PARTY CONVENTION MUST AND WILL BE CALLED.**

However, in order to make the convention a success—in order that the convention shall accomplish the necessary task of clarifying the fundamental issues at stake—**IN ORDER THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY SHALL FUNCTION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF COMMUNISM IN HARMONY WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES LAID DOWN BY THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL, without internal dissension paralyzing its activities—and, what is most important—in order TO GIVE THE MEMBERSHIP — THE RANK AND FILE—the opportunity to express their opinion on the issues before the party, this convention must be well-prepared and carefully arranged.**

The time, the place, the method of electing the delegates, and, above all, instructions to the delegates are essential prerequisites in order to make this convention accomplish its purpose.

This means, first of all, that before the convention is called, the membership must be given the opportunity to discuss all the issues so that, when the time comes for the election of delegates, they will not elect them blindly, **BUT INTELLIGENTLY—AND ELECT ONLY THOSE DELEGATES WHO ACTUALLY REPRESENT THEIR OPINION ON THE ISSUES IN THE CONTROVERSY.**

All this requires time for preparation—preparation for the process of elections in the various stages and the technical arrangements connected with these and the convention itself, both by the membership and the Central Executive Committee. If called too soon, without the proper time for preparation as stated above, the convention would only result in failure and necessitate the calling of another convention a few months after this convention to settle the issues which a hurried convention will inevitably fail to accomplish.

Moreover, this convention should be called only by the Central Executive Committee of the party, as the only legally elected body which, between conventions, can speak with authority in the name of the Communist Party and its activities as a whole. This is the only meaning of revolutionary centralism and discipline upon which a real, strong Communist Party can be built.

Therefore we call upon the membership to repudiate the so-called convention called by the former Executive Secretary Damon,

### To all members of the Communist Party of America.

COMRADES:

You all know that the former Executive Secretary, Damon, seized all the party funds, entrusted to him by the Central Executive Committee, amounting to more than seven thousand dollars, leaving the party without money to carry on its work. (Full account will be found on the last page of this issue.)

In order to carry on the work of agitation, propaganda and party administration **WE MUST HAVE MONEY. WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ISSUE THE PAPER AND TO CONTINUE OUR ACTIVITIES WITHOUT FUNDS.**

**SURELY THE MEMBERSHIP REALIZES WHAT A CALAMITY THIS WOULD BE IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT CRISIS IN THE PARTY.**

Therefore **ACT QUICKLY. GATHER FUNDS AND SEND THEM TO US IMMEDIATELY.**

**ALL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS — ALL SUB-DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS — ALL BRANCHES — ALL GROUPS WHICH STAND WITH THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REMAIN IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY ARE HEREBY CALLED UPON TO COLLECT AND RUSH ALL FUNDS THROUGH THE REGULAR PARTY CHANNELS TO**

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Acting Secretary,  
Communist Party of America.

which, as we will show, is nothing but a trap set for the rank and file. The date itself, as fixed in the call issued by the former Executive Secretary implies no real desire to have any convention at all.

In the first place, the former Executive Secretary had no right or mandate to call this convention. The duty of the Executive Secretary, as defined by the Convention, is to work only under the supervision and control of, and in conjunction with, the Central Executive Committee. He is only the executor of the decisions of that body, or where a division exists, of the majority of that body, and is responsible to the Central Executive Committee, which is, in turn, responsible to the convention.

Secondly, the date set in the call issued by the former Executive Secretary, May—for elections of intermediary units and May—for national convention, even were it technically possible, would give no chance to the membership to discuss the issues involved.

Thus, while pretending that they represent the membership and that they want to give them the opportunity to express themselves at the convention, the "minority" in fact, is deliberately arranging the convention so as to prevent the membership from any possibility of expressing themselves. The date

fixed by them implies that they are deliberately arranging their convention so as to force the membership to elect their delegates blindly. In other words, they are simply deceiving the membership.

But it is obvious that it is physically impossible to have the elections and the convention on the date set in the call of the "minority." Conventions are not called at a week's notice!

This is so self-evident, that even the "minority," however ignorant on party questions they may be, cannot pretend to be unfamiliar with. Most assuredly they knew it, but still they purposely fixed their impossible date as a sort of "bribe" to the membership in an attempt to swing them away from the Communist Party and its Central Executive Committee, over to their side by offering them an "earlier" date. The very fact that in their letter to the C. E. C. requesting joint action on the question of a party convention, the "minority" express a willingness to change the date and other details already fixed by them, indicates clearly that they themselves did not take their own call and its fixed date for the convention seriously.

In the meantime, the "minority" do not hesitate to use the party funds in the possession of the party.

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