

Statement of the Central Executive Committee on the Nuorteva Charges

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America has before it the following statement published in the capitalist press by Santeri Nuorteva:

"There also appears to be another reason for the desire to deport us. We have conclusive evidence that agents of the Department of Justice have actively participated in the organization of the Communist Party of America and that those very planks in the program of the party, which now form the basis of the persecution of thousands of people, have been drafted and inserted into that program by such government agents."

The implications in this charge are, that there are in our program clauses which have been particularly framed to lay us open to attack, and secondly, that agents of the Department of Justice were among our program committee.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party is convinced that it is only necessary to point to the method by which its program was framed and adopted to demonstrate that the first charge is untrue, and is the effort of an enemy of the Communist Party to discredit it before the working people of this country.

Our convention elected a program committee of nine members, being those delegates which the convention considered best grounded in Communist principles. This

committee took days to study every phrase in the program which it finally presented to the convention. The convention of 125 delegates carefully scrutinized the program recommended for adoption. Word by word and line by line it was weighed by the convention. The convention made many changes both in language and principle of the program, before it gave its final approval.

No one who has studied the program thus adopted has dared challenge it. No one has dared say that it is not a Communist Program in entire harmony with the principles of the Communist International. Even Nuorteva dared not say that! If it be admitted that our convention of 125 delegates after careful scrutiny and study adopted a truly Communist Program, what remains of Nuorteva's charge?

The Central Executive Committee of the party is also able to throw light on the second point in this charge. Some six or eight weeks ago the charge that a certain official of our organization was an agent of the Department of Justice, was brought before a section of the Central Executive Committee. After every opportunity to present evidence, of which a stenographic report was made, it was the unanimous decision of the members of the Central Executive Committee present, that the comrade in question has been completely ex-

The Party Organization

In 1919

THE end of the year 1919 closed a definite period in the history of the Communist Party of America. The party was organized on Sept. 1, 1919. The machinery of its national organization was established about two weeks later. It was permitted to maintain its open existence for a period of three and a half months, when the

operated. This decision was later concurred in by the members of the Executive Council, who read the stenographic report.

The charge made by Nuorteva seemed carefully calculated so that it would reach the workers of America at a time when our party organization was obliged to meet the full weight of an attack by black reaction, with its press suppressed and the channels for reaching its membership temporarily destroyed. An attack of this character is a betrayal of the interest of the working class movement.

The integrity of our party remains unchallenged in spite of this stab in the back. No party member will leave us because of this charge and we are certain that the test of our past and future action will convince the Workers of America that our party represents the revolutionary workers, who will rally to its support.

Long Live Communism! Long Live the Communist International!

agents of capitalism swooped down on its national offices and took possession.

The record of those three and a half months shows the beginning of a virile, powerful organization, far exceeding in strength what remained of the Socialist Party, from which it sprung.

During the three and a half months of organized existence close to seven hundred party branches were chartered, with every promise that the number would have quickly passed the one thousand mark. Dues payments to the national organization amounted to \$14,957.46, reflecting thus early the substantial membership within the organization. In addition \$6,031.22 was turned over to the party for national dues by federations, this amount having been accumulated by them during the period of their expulsion from the Socialist Party. Contributions to the Organization Fund received from branches amounted to \$6,414.17. Literature sales amounted to \$1,805.08 and Leaflets \$1,542.96. The total income of the national office for the three and a half months was \$31,052.20. The expenditures were \$19,346.72, leaving the assets \$11,705.48. On its financial side

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We Must Show an Unbroken Front to Our Enemy

The capitalist class of the United States threw all the power of the government against the Communist Party of America during the first week in January.

Raids and arrests were carried out on a scale never before undertaken by any government against the working class movement. Even the Czar was outdone by the agents of American capitalism.

The capitalist government hoped to destroy the Communist Party by this unparalleled aggression and persecution.

The Victims of the Raids

Deportation

About 3,000 members of the Communist Party are being held at Ellis Island, New York City; Deer Island, Boston, and in prisons throughout the country. These men and women are charged with being members of the Communist Party, and because of such membership are threatened with deportation.

Although the capitalist government threw all its power into the effort to destroy our party, it has failed. In spite of the wholesale arrests our organization is functioning. The government has taken three or four thousand of our workers, but there are tens of thousands left who stand in their places and who have assumed their work.

The first duty of the party is to organize the defense of those comrades who are the victims of the ruling class attack upon us.

We must see that not one of our members is needlessly sacrificed. We must fight their battles against deportation and imprisonment. We must take advantage of every phase of capitalist laws to return them to our ranks and the service of the party.

To carry on this work a Central Defense Bureau has been organized.

This Bureau will have general charge of the defense of the party members everywhere. It will immediately give aid to those in localities where the defense organization is not functioning properly and as quickly as possible establish branches throughout the country to take over all defense work.

Every party unit should at once send its contributions for this defense work. Circulate the Defense Fund lists and Defense Fund Stamps.

The emergency is great, comrades, and you must make your contributions as great as the emergency. Never before has a working class organization been compelled to defend more than 3,000 of its members at the same time.

Let us show an unbroken front in spite of this attack. Let us show the power of Communism by performing this task quickly and well.

COMMUNIST DEFENSE COMMITTEE

C. E. RUTHENBERG, Sec. I. E. FERGUSON, Treas.
ROSE PASTOR STOKES JAY LOVESTONE CHARLES DIRBA

Send all contributions to: I. E. FERGUSON, 138 West 13th Street, New York City
(Use this address for defense fund contributions only)