

## NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING UNITY WITH THE C. L. P.

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The Communist Party Committee maintains that co-operation in the work of defense, organization and propaganda is "impracticable" and "inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the Communist Party." But we know that the great mass of the Communist Party's membership desire immediate co-operation of all Communist forces in these endeavors to meet the forces of reaction. We know that in this attempt to postpone even the consideration of unity to a distant convention, the holding of which is very problematical, the majority of the Communist Party Central Executive Committee (a bare majority of one) does not represent the will of the Communist Party membership, and we appeal to this membership to enforce their will.

We ask the membership not to be lulled into inactivity with the promise of a unity convention six months hence. Our acceptance of the convention proposal was conditional upon an immediate uniting of all Communist forces to fight the common foe. Those that want unity can achieve it AT ONCE, much easier than six months from now. RIGHT NOW is the time to unite into one mighty army all comrades that will hold aloft the banner of the Third International. The persecutions have disrupted the old organization forms. The membership is now in a state of flux. The organization forms are being molded and built, adapted to the new conditions. While this process is going on ALL that are worth while can be united into ONE organization, will NATURALLY unite into one organization.

But if we wait six months, if we first go through a long period of steam roller building and wire pulling to control convention delegates (as some of the Communist Party's C.E.C. majority have already started to do against the members of their own party), if we now once more build two Communist organizations until they become set and rigid, and then pit them against each other in a convention, a unity of Communist forces will be almost impossible to attain. If the golden opportunity to unite now is allowed to pass, if the schism in the Communist ranks is perpetuated as the present majority of the C.E.C. of the Communist Party seems to desire, then those responsible for it will convict themselves of actual treason to the Communist International.

We stand ready at any time to discuss with the C.E.C. of the Communist Party the problem of immediate merging of the Communist hosts, to bring into one great fighting organization all those who are for the Soviets and the Proletarian Dictatorship, as recommended by the Executive Committee of the Communist International. We hope sincerely that this consummation may yet be achieved.

National Executive Committee,  
Communist Labor Party.

After a discussion of several hours the motion was put to a vote with the following result:

Voting Yes: Damon, Isaacs, Langley, Norman—4.

Voting No: Andrew, Bernstein, Brown, Bunte, Raphael, Ries, Sassha, Black—9.

The motion was, therefore, lost.

The Central Executive Committee thereupon formulated the following proposal and reply to the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party, which was adopted unanimously in its final form:  
New York, March 19, 1920.

National Executive Committee, Communist Labor Party.  
Comrades:

Your reply to our proposal to hold a joint convention for the purpose of achieving unity of the Communist elements of this country has been received, and has had the careful consideration of our committee.

We will not concern ourselves with the various charges and insinuations in your statement. These are evidently not intended to be taken seriously, but are included mere-

ly for the purpose of propaganda, since they do not affect the issues at stake. Our committee has, however, again considered your proposal for immediate unity between your committee and ours, and has rejected this proposal by the decisive vote of nine to four. The reason for this rejection is that our committee does not believe that unity attained through such committee action would attain the permanent Communist unity which we earnestly desire.

As evidence of its desire to achieve such permanent Communist unity, our committee has adopted the following statement, which it submits for your consideration and acceptance:

1. We accept the basis of Communist unity proposed by the Third International, inasmuch as it relates to the rank and file, but we maintain that the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party must be in agreement also on questions of tactics and organization, and since such would not be the case if we merged the Central Executive Committees of the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party, we reject such a merger.

2. We confirm our desire to have unity of both parties achieved through a joint convention.

3. We are ready to set the date for the joint convention at the earliest possible date, and not later than June 15.

4. The Constitutional relations of the Federations to the party must enter as a part of the call for the joint convention, subject of course to changes by the convention.

5. In the meantime we favor co-operation between the two parties whenever desirable and practicable through the Central, District and local committees of both parties, subject to the control and approval of the respective Central Executive Committees.

We have elected a joint convention committee of three members with instructions to meet with a similar committee of your organization and to arrange a convention on the following basis:

1. The call for the convention must include our Manifesto, Program and Constitutional relations of the Federations to the Party.

2. Apportionment of delegates on the basis of dues stamps sold by each organization for the months of October, November and December, the total number of delegates from both organizations not to exceed 35; books of both organizations to be open to the opposite committee members.

3. The election of delegates to be by membership action and to be conducted secretly, and to be as nearly as possible alike for both organizations.

4. The quorum to call the convention to order to consist of two-thirds of the delegates elected by each organization.

For ourselves we have adopted the following plan for the election of delegates:

1. We will apportion delegates to our districts on the basis of dues stamps purchased during October, November and December.

2. A convention of each district shall be called in which subdistricts shall be represented by one delegate for each 200 members, on the basis of dues stamps purchased for October, November and December. This convention to elect our delegates and alternates.

3. Nomination for delegates to the district conventions shall be secured from the members by the group organizers. Nominees must be members in the districts in which they are nominated. The names of all nominees shall be presented to the members for vote by the group organizers. The district convention may elect any party members irrespective of the districts.

If your committee really desires unity between the Communists of the United States and is not merely using the plea for unity as a convenient method of propaganda against the Communist Party of America, we trust you will take immediate favorable action on this proposal, and elect your convention committee.

Central Executive Committee,  
Communist Party of America.

## WHY THESE STRIKES

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shibboleths. The war has destroyed many relationships formerly held to be immutable and eternal. It has cracked inertia and conservatism. Everywhere the workers are beginning to think of a new order of things. But let us not be deluded. It is true wage-slavery has been rocked to its foundations by the cataclysmic war. It is true that capitalism is toppling and that it is on the brink of a precipice. But the damnable system will not fall of its own sheer weight. It has to be overthrown. And this is the historic mission of the proletariat. The new society will not fall into our lap. There is a long and bitter struggle ahead of us.

The present social ferment in America beckons the Communists to action. Clarity of purpose must supplant the vagueness which permeates the American workers' struggle to-day. Order and discipline must be added to the everyday battle of our proletariat. The field before us is immeasurable. The savage onslaught on our organization by the United States Department of Injustice is the most eloquent proof of the workers' need for Communal education and direction. Let us not be dismayed by temporary setbacks. Every cloud has its silver lining. A better day is dawning. "We have nothing to lose but our chains." And we have a world to gain. On with the Communist task!

## Lovestone's Testimony

Jay Lovestone, I. E. Ferguson and Rose Pastor Stokes were subpoenaed as witnesses for the prosecution in the Winitsky trial. Only Jay Lovestone was called to the witness stand. Previous to his being called the prosecution had through its own stenographer read into the record a complete statement of the Chicago Convention of the party. Lovestone conferred with responsible comrades and it was agreed (Rose Pastor Stokes alone not concurring) that since he could not add anything material to the evidence he should, if compelled to, go on the witness stand rather than to refuse to testify and go to prison for contempt.

Upon being called to the stand Lovestone refused to testify on the ground that he would incriminate himself. Under an amendment to the New York law passed a week or ten days before the trial, a witness who refuses to testify on the ground of incrimination, can be compelled to testify if he is first granted immunity. In order to compel Lovestone to testify the prosecution stated that immunity would be granted him under this law. He thereupon signified his willingness to answer questions. The report that he first had a conference with the prosecution is false. He was in the custody of the prosecutors during the lunch hour which is always the case when testimony continues over a recess.

## Lenin, Lamont and Loot

A recent despatch from Peking to the London Times says the Chinese government has received a message from the Moscow Soviet through Commissary Jansen at Irkutsk announcing that a Red Army is marching east to succor the workmen and peasants in Siberia from the "Brigands Kolchak, Semenov, Horvath and their Japanese allies and establish everlasting peace." The communication expresses horror at the crimes committed against China and undertakes to annul all treaties and renounce all privileges improperly acquired from China.

The message indicates that the services of the Red Army will be available to deliver China from foreign imperialistic and capitalistic ambitions.

The correspondent says there is no doubt that everything offered will be accepted by China, the Bolshevik having succeeded in establishing themselves in the good graces of the Chinese.

Quite naturally! The Bolsheviks are not interested in looting China and the Chinese people know it. They desire only to be left alone. Should those imperialistic powers that lust after China capture and devour her, imperialism is an immediate menace to China and an only less immediate menace to Russia. Lamont, of the firm of Morgan & Co., is reported in Japan at the present time plotting Chinese absorption. It seems to be a race between Lamont

and Lenin for China's favors. All things seem to favor Lenin. Much depends upon the outcome. America, perhaps, will be most profoundly affected. If Lamont loses—if American finance-imperialism fails to open up China for its own economic relief, it will have to seek a market elsewhere—but where? Maybe Lenin could tell them if they have ears to hear. But no! If the wooing Lamont loses his beloved China to Lenin, he will listen to nobody (least of all his successful rival!) but just pine and die. Or will he? May we not still have the spectacle of finance-imperialism, with a false hear and a forced smile, begging the Soviet Government for her economic favors?

What will it not do for LOOT!

PASS THIS ON TO A WORKER—A TRUSTED ONE.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS FOR PARTY OR DEFENSE GO THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS.

ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS!

BUILD THE UNIT IN THE SHOP.