

Resolution on Unity

ADOPTED BY THE C. E. C. OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA.

Since the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International demanding immediate unity between the Communist Party of America and the United Communist Party, was received after the date set in the resolution for the final completion of said unity; and

Recognizing that the idea and the intent of the resolution must be carried out, and to the best of our ability and circumstances without further delay;

We decided to take immediate steps for calling a joint convention with the United Communist Party, within two months, the representation to be in proportion to membership determined upon a just and equal basis for both parties, and

To notify the Executive Committee of the Communist International of our acknowledgement of their authority in the question, and of the steps we have taken to comply with their decision as soon as it has reached us.

October 19, 1920.

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL.

Dear Comrades:-

In the "Izvestia", official organ of the Soviet Republic, issue of September 14th—which accidentally came into our possession on October 13th and therefore could not be acted upon before the date of this letter—we came across the following decision enacted by your committee relative to the American Communist movement:

"Both Communist parties,—the United Communist Party and the Communist Party, are obligated to unite into one party on the basis of the decisions of the Second World Congress of the Communist International. This unity must be finally accomplished not later than in two months; that is, by the 10th of October 1920. Those who do not subject themselves to this decision shall be expelled from the Third, Communist, International"

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party, at its special meeting on October 19th, took up this question and adopted the enclosed resolution. Your decision was immediately complied with not only because we recognize your full and complete authority but also because we agree with your fundamental plan of creating one Communist Party in each country.

However, we wish to impress upon your committee that the Communist Party has done all in its power, consistent with Communist principles and tactics, to unite all Communist elements within one party, ever since the breach created by the split in the Left Wing Conference which eventually resulted in the formation of two Communist parties.

We have already enumerated in detail the outstanding facts pertaining to this question in the last statement to your committee on the occasion of our receipt of your appeal for unity between the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party, as printed in the No. 11 issue of the "Communist International".

THIS APPEAL ARRIVED SOME MONTHS AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR UNITY HAD BEEN SUDDENLY BROKEN OFF BY THE C. L. P., WHICH UNITED WITH THE SPLITTING-OFF MINORITY OF THE C. P. LED BY DAMON, CAXTON, FISHER & CO..

It is also important to bear in mind that the split was engineered just at the moment when unity through a joint convention was about to be consummated.

Your first appeal for unity could no longer be applied in the new situation because an entirely new set of factors had developed, which can be briefly enumerated as follows:

- (1) The C. L. P. had broken off negotiations with the C. E. C. of the Communist Party.
- (2) The C. L. P. and the "minority faction" which split away from the C. P., made a deal not to have anything to do with the C. E. C. of the C. P. —AS PRINTED IN THE MAY 15th ISSUE OF THE C. L. P. "COMMUNIST".
- (3) The United Communist Party abolished and destroyed every vestige of subordinate language federations in their party.
- (4) The United Communist Party took a wrong position on industrial unionism in its program and in its dealings with the I. W. W., entirely out of keeping with the position of the Third International.
- (5) The Centrist leaders of the "minority"

(Damon, Caxton, Fisher & Co.), who had split away from the C. P. mainly on the questions of mass action, and language federations, after committing a grave breach of party discipline as well as absconding with the funds and records of the party, BECAME THE DOMINATING LEADERS OF THE UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY.

(6) The Centrist leaders of the U. C. P. openly condoned these actions and endorsed the stand of the Centrist "minority" leaders.

(7) From the very beginning The United Communist Party refused to acknowledge the existence of the Communist Party, as a regularly constituted party, despite the self-evident facts, ... This new situation could not be dealt with in the manner prescribed in your appeal because the breach had been so widened that left no other course open for the Communist Party to pursue except to send a delegate to Russia to lay the facts before your committee and await your decision after the facts had been laid before you.

This course the Communist Party pursued. It sent a delegate to Russia to lay the facts before your committee and await his return with your decision before resuming any action towards uniting all Communist forces in this country into one party.

The decision of your committee on August 7th, prior to the arrival of our delegate, however, makes further delay impossible, irrespective of the outcome of our delegate's mission. We recognize your decision as final and have made preparations that will bring both parties into a unity convention based upon proportional representation of membership in both parties. The decision of the Second World Congress, the Conditions for Affiliation to the Communist International, and any action of your committee pertaining to the Communist movement in this country, shall be the basis of unity.

This does not mean that we have given up the fight with the Centrist leaders of the U. C. P.. By no means. This fight will now be carried on within the new, united party, just as uncompromisingly as before. These men have proven themselves utterly unfit for leadership in the Communist movement and have also proven that they do not understand the needs of a Communist Party at this stage of its existence in the peculiar conditions obtaining here.

We are confident that the position of the Communist Party will be vindicated after your committee has come into possession of all the facts. We believe that your committee has been fed with misrepresentations and lies due to the PECULIAR CONDITIONS which precluded the possibility of our side of the case coming before you.

With Communist greetings, we remain,
Yours for the world proletarian revolution,
The Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America.

Letter to the U. C. P. on Unity.

October 20 1920.

TO THE C. E. C. OF THE U. C. P.

Dear Comrades:-

Having on October 13th accidentally come across a decision in the Sept. 14th "Izvestia", official organ of the Soviet Republic, relative to the unity of the Communist Party and the United Communist Party, as follows:

"Both Communist Parties,—the United Communist Party and the Communist Party, are obligated to unite into one party on the basis of the decisions of the Second World Congress of the Communist International. This unity must be finally accomplished not later than in two months; that is, by the 10th of October, 1920. Those who do not subject themselves to this decision shall be expelled from the Third, Communist International"

In accordance with this decision of the Executive Committee of the Communist International the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party has passed the following decision:

"Since the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, demanding immediate unity between the C. P. and the U. C. P., was received after the date set in the resolution for the final completion of unity; and

"Recognizing that the idea and the intent of the resolution must be carried out to the best of our ability and circumstances without

further delay;

"We decide to take immediate steps for calling a joint convention with the U. C. P. within two months, the representation to be in proportion to membership determined upon a just and equal basis for both parties; and

"To notify the Executive Committee of the Communist International of our acknowledgement of their authority in the question, and of the steps we have taken to comply with their decision as soon as it reached us".

On the basis of this resolution the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party has passed the following motions, in order to facilitate the process of uniting both parties at a joint convention;

1) A committee of three (Allen, Dobin and Leon) has been elected with power to make arrangements with a like committee representing your Central Executive Committee.

2) That in the event of agreement a call for a joint convention shall be issued by the respective C. E. C.'s of both parties.

3) The basis for the joint call shall be as follows: a) The decisions of the Second Congress of the Communist International; b) The Conditions for Affiliation to the Communist International; c) Any decisions of the Executive Committee of the Communist International pertaining to the Communist Movement in this country.

4) The joint convention shall be called within two months.

5) The basis of election to joint convention shall be as follows: representation is to be in proportion to membership determined upon a just and equal basis for both parties.

In view of the very limited time for the calling of the joint convention we expect a speedy reply.

Fraternally yours,
C. Dobin, Exec. Sec.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

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Conclusion.

This short review was not written for the mere glorification of the deeds of the Communist Party of Russia. Glory to be sure, there is more than enough in the revolutionary record of the Russian Communists for the last three years. But there is something else in it. Something that concerns us in America much more vitally. This is the revolutionary experience. Many a good revolutionary workers in America is still questioning the necessity of a Communist Party in America for the liberation of the working class. And under the tutelage of such educators and leaders as Sandgren of the "One Big Union Monthly", quite a number of the workers honestly devoted to the cause of their class, are acquiring the reactionary and harmful notion that a revolutionary working class political party, such as the Communist Party of America, is useless if not actually dangerous, to the proletarian cause. I do not care to argue, at present, with Sandgren. But I do care a great deal for the truly revolutionary workers of the I. W. W. and other organizations, who sincerely believe that "politics", all and every kind of political action, is injurious to the interests of the working class. To these workers I say, study the Russian revolution. Demand the facts. Ask to be shown what made the revolution in Russia possible. Why were the workers there able to seize the powers of state and successfully break the resistance of the capitalists landlords, and most important of all, what produced the wonderful team-work of all parts of the labor movement in the functioning of the proletarian dictatorship in Russia?

In my short review I have attempted to give you the facts. My study is far from being exhausted, still, the outstanding facts are there. And what do they teach us? That a Communist Party, that is a political organization of all the class-conscious and revolutionary workers trained in the art and science of large political and social affairs, is an indispensable condition for the success of the social revolution.

On the third anniversary of the Russian Soviet Republic it behooves the class-conscious workers in America to take to heart this momentous lesson of the Russian revolution and dedicate themselves to the task of building up a strong and powerful Communist Party in America. Only thus shall we fulfill our duty towards the workers of America and the laboring masses the world over.