

Further Negotiations on Unity

The Unity Committee of the Communist Party in its negotiations with the Unity Committee of the U. C. P. have now reached another stage in the negotiations, and it is necessary to apprise the membership of all the steps taken and reasons for the temporary break. Hardly any comment is necessary, as the various communications speak for themselves. These documents follow in chronological order:

Nov. 13, 1920.

TO THE UNITY COMMITTEE,
UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA.

Comrades:-

It is eight days now since we interchanged the last of our communications with you, and since we have been expecting to hear from you as to your further actions and as to another meeting with our Unity Committee.

At that time we understood that you would be ready to give us answer to our last communication and to make another appointment with our committee in about three days. Can you not give this answer and make the appointment now? Or tell us why you can not or will not do that?

We regret that our C. E. C. was compelled to adjourn before the negotiations were brought to a definite agreement, but before adjourning it was decided that in view of the time limit set by the International, and in accordance with the decisions of the Congress we issue the call for a Special Convention, which is to be a Joint Convention with the U. C. P. when final agreement is reached. Copy of our Call is enclosed for your information.

A prompt reply from you will be appreciated. You can communicate with us every day through the same comrade through whom you will receive this letter.

Fraternally,

(Signed) C. Dobin, Exec. Sec. C. P. of A.

Nov. 14, 1920.

TO the Central Executive Committee,

Communist Party,

Comrades:-

In answer to your two recent communications the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party passed the following resolution:

"That in reply to recent letters from the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party, part of the contents of which purport to transmit a recent decision of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, in regard to unity, we state, that we can only rely upon our own means of communication with the Executive Committee of the Communist International and see no reason for altering the provisions for a joint convention nor the basis of representation for same."

Fraternally,

(Signed) Paul Holt, Exec. Sec. C. E. C.

(Seal) United Communist Party of America.

November 23, we received word of an appointment to meet their unity committee. When the two committees met, our committee was handed the following document from the Communist International (in Russian).

TO U. C. P. AND C. P.

Resolution adopted September 20th.

The Executive Committee decides:

- 1) To extend the term for the complete unification of both parties in America to January 1st, 1921.
- 2) To call the attention of the American comrades to the extreme inconvenience of the systematic arrival of new delegates from America who question decisions already passed in presence of other delegates.
- 3) The Executive Committee demands as an ultimatum, unity on the basis of the decisions adopted by the Second Congress of the Comm. Intern.
- 4) Responsible representatives of both Parties, give a pledge to the Executive Committee of the Comm. Intern., to accomplish unity without fail.

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE E. C. C. I. OF AUGUST 20th, 1920.

Heard and accepted. 4) Motion of Comrade Reed in reference to bases of representation at the Unity Congress of the Communist Parties of America:

"Representation at the Unity Congress shall be proportional, and the basis shall be the number of dues-paying members by the 1st of September, 1920, according to the official books of both parties."

Original signed by Kobetzky, copy by K. Scott.

P. S. Decisions of the Ex. Comm. of the Comm. Intern.—name of the unified party to be "Communist Party of America".
A later decision.

"In the Small Bureau it was decided to take July, August, September and October for the basis. And, in addition, that temporarily, representatives of both parties may take part in the meetings of the Ex. Comm. But this is not important. The main thing is that unity MUST BE carried out, because all Moscow is considering this as a necessary and urgent matter."

(Signed) A. Scott.

Then, without directly agreeing to a Unity Convention on the basis of the decisions of the Communist International, the U. C. P. committee wanted to talk about the representation, whereupon we handed the following:

November 24th, 1920.

NOV. 24, 1920. TO THE UNITY COMMITTEE
OF THE U. C. P.

Comrades:- The Unity Committee of the C. P. stands ready and is empowered to enter into conference with your Committee for a Unity Convention of both parties, to be held on the basis of the decisions of the Com. Intern., as soon as you are ready and empowered to do so.

(Signed)—Dobin, Allen, Morris,—

Unity Committee C. P.

In reply we received the following:

NOV. 24, 1920. TO THE UNITY COMMITTEE
OF THE C. P.

Comrades:- The C. E. C. of the U. C. P. still maintains the position, stated in its previous communications, that the interests of the Communist movement in America imperatively demand a major representation, arbitrarily fixed in advance, for the U. C. P. at the Unity Convention, not only on the ground of its greater numerical strength, but also because its centralized form of organization, every group of which is underground, and its organization policies have already established the U. C. P. as the major party.

However, now the C. E. C. has received an official mandate for unity from the Executive Committee of the Communist International, as well as a notation that the Small Bureau of the E. C. of the C. I. has fixed the basis of representation on the dues paid during the months of July, Aug. Sept. and Oct. The Unity Committee of the U. C. P. has therefore, communicated this decision of the E. C. of the C. I. and the decision of the Small Bureau, to the Unity Committee of the C. P., and is ready and empowered to take the necessary steps to carry out these decisions, confident that an honest statement of membership by both parties will fully establish the claim of the U. C. P. for major representation at the ratio of at least six delegates for the U. C. P. to four delegates for the C. P.

(Signed)—Alden, Holt, McGee.

This statement was considered sufficiently satisfactory to proceed with negotiations by our committee, in spite of the personal opinions and conjectures contained in the first and last paragraphs of their statement. A date set (November 28th) for the submission of signed statements of membership figures by both sides. On November 28th, both committees met and the statements were presented. (Copies of these statements will be found in the second statement on Unity which has already been published and in the hands of the membership). The total figures as presented give the C. P. 7552 dues paying members as the average for the four months and the U. C. P. 4661 for the same period. The Unity Committee of the U. C. P. demanded then to see the signed statements of the Federations (Russian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian) and on November 30th we presented them, not only with such statements but also the official books of these Federations as well. No serious discrepancies were indicated in the figures submitted by both sides, but instead of settling the final matters preliminary to issuing the joint call, the U. C. P. committee stated that they intended to "investigate on the ground", and stated that their committee

would be unable to meet with ours until a week later.

Here the matter rests for the present. Just a word as to this so-called investigation "on the ground". Either this is intended as a mere formality, in which case we may expect to complete unity in the period specified by the Communist International, or, if the U. C. P. really intend to "investigate on the ground", it is the most hypocritical and deliberate piece of chicanery ever perpetrated. It is quite evident to any one familiar with underground organization, that it is absolutely impossible to verify figures except with the co-operation of our own officials. Even then this would take some months. But for outsiders to attempt a serious, honest "investigation" without the co-operation of our officials (which they did not request and seemed not to want) in the period of a week or so, is a manifest fraud. An outsider can comb a whole city without finding out the organization strength of any underground party. Does the U. C. P. intend to use this fraudulent "investigation" to hold up the Unity proceedings?

The Communist International to the American Socialist Party.

(Continued from page 3)

The Socialist Party of the United States submits to this terrorism; it endeavors to prove itself harmless to the capitalist dictatorship, non-revolutionary—and succeeds rather well. Swallowing the ejection of its representatives from Congress, from the State Legislatures, it praises the government, endorses even more warmly the bourgeois state system helping in this way to escape the consequences of defending the working class against the capitalist system. And the Convention rejects a resolution of sympathy for Larkin and Gitlow, Communist fighters taken prisoners in the class war.

If the majority of the American Socialist Party endorses the decisions of this convention, then we have but one thing to say to those honest workers who still remain within the Party:

You are being deceived. The Socialist Party of the United States is not a working class Party, but an auxiliary organization of the American bourgeoisie, of world imperialism. It is not leading you toward Socialism—it is betraying you to the counter-revolution.

Workers! Leave the American Socialist Party. It is your enemy and ours. Already in America there is a revolutionary Party, the United Communist Party, the American Section of the Communist International. These are our true comrades. Thousands of them have suffered for the Revolution. This is the Party of the revolutionary working class.

JOIN THE UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY!

And to the leaders, officials of the Socialist Party of the United States—the Bergers, Hillquits, Londons, Lees—we have only this to say:

You have disgraced the name of "Socialist". You apply for admission to the Communist International; we answer by declaring war upon you, traitors to the Working Class, who, on the eve of the World Revolution, sold out to the enemy to save your skins.

Issued by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL.

Editorial Note.

The following document was received in this country as one of the documents printed in the "Russian Press Review", published in Moscow, of the issue of October.

Apparently the last paragraphs of the document, in which is mentioned the "United Communist Party", seems to indicate that it was written at a time when the Executive Committee of the Communist International was laboring under the impression that an overwhelming majority of the members of the Communist Party had gone over to the U. C. P. It will be remembered that this was the week the U. C. P. delegates spread in Russia and the Executive Committee had no means of verifying this statement until our own delegate arrived there with the real facts.

Since the arrival of our delegate, the Executive Committee has given the Communist Party full recognition and placed our delegate on the Executive Committee with an equal vote. It also laid down the conditions for accomplishing unity as printed in the last issue, which clearly and unequivocally recognize the Communist Party with full rights in the Communist International.

It is also possible that the Executive Committee was under the impression, when this document was written, that unity had already been achieved in this country as the first mandate for unity was promulgated on August 7th demanding unity by October 10th. It is therefore quite probable that the reference to the United Communist Party was intended to mean the unified and united Communist movement in America.