

Constitution of Communist Party of America.

ADOPTED BY THE THIRD CONVENTION, FEBRUARY, 1921

Art. I. Name and Purpose

Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be the Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International.

Sec. 2. It is the organization of the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat. Its purpose is to educate, direct and lead the working class of America for the conquest of political power; to destroy the bourgeois state machinery; to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of Soviet Power; to abolish the capitalist system and to introduce the Communist Society.

Art. II. Emblem

Sec. 1. The emblem of the Communist Party shall be an outline figure of the earth, with a flag across the globe bearing the inscription "All Power to the Workers"; and around the figure of the earth, in the margin, the words "Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International."

Art. III. Membership and Dues

Sec. 1. Every person who accepts the principles and tactics of the Communist Party of America and the Communist International; who submits to the party discipline and agrees to engage actively in the party work shall be eligible to membership.

Sec. 2. No person whose livelihood is gained by exploiting labor shall be eligible to membership in the Communist Party of America.

Sec. 3. No person who is a member or supporter of any other political organization shall be admitted to membership.

Sec. 4. Applicants for admission as members shall be vouched for by two persons who have been members of the Party not less than six consecutive months, except in newly organized groups in new territory. Acceptance of the applicant shall be determined by the Branch Executive Committee.

Every applicant shall be on probation for three months, with a voice but no vote. Whenever practical applicants shall be assigned to special probationary groups during the period of probation. Candidates admission shall be finally decided by the Branch Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. Special group captains shall be placed in charge of probationary groups. They shall be appointed by the Branch Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. Applicants for membership shall pay one dollar initiation fee (to be remitted to the C.E.C. and all dues and assessments during the probationary period).

Sec. 7. Each member shall pay 60 cents per month as dues, and all assessments.

Sec. 8. Dues shall be collected in return for stamps; a sufficient contingency supply being once furnished to all subdivisions of the Party, down to the groups; and further stamps being furnished only to replace those actually sold, and paid for.

Sec. 9. Federations shall make returns to the Central Executive Committee of forty cents for each dues payment collected by the tenth of each month; retaining 20 cents for themselves.

Sec. 10. Federation branches shall purchase stamps and make returns through federation channels.

Sec. 11. Special emergency assessments may be levied by the Convention; by the Central Executive Committee of the Party, or by the Federation Executive Committees (subject to the approval of the C.E.C.). No member shall be considered in good standing unless he pays all such assessments.

Sec. 12. Members unable to pay dues and assessments on account of sickness, unemployment, strikes or for similar reasons, shall be granted exemption upon application to the Branch Executive Committee. Group organizers shall include such requests in their reports, and branch organizers shall report all exemptions granted every time they make their remittances for dues.

Sec. 13. Members who are two months in arrears in payment of dues and assessments shall be dropped from membership, unless within one month after notification by the group organizer he places himself in good standing.

Sec. 14. Branch Executive Committees shall have the right to issue to their members transfers to all Party units.

Art. IV. Form and Units of Organization

Sec. 1. The Communist Party is an underground, illegal organization. It is highly centralized, with the convention as its supreme body and the Central Executive Committee acting as such between the conventions.

Sec. 2. The basic units of the Party organization shall be groups of approximately ten members, and, wherever possible, not less than five.

Sec. 3. Groups of the same language, within a city or locality shall form a Branch. Branches shall consist of not more than ten groups each.

Sec. 4. Branches within a locality shall form a Local. Locals shall consist as nearly as possible of ten branches each, and shall be formed wherever there are more than one branch within a locality. Single branches in

isolated localities shall connect directly with their subdistrict.

Sec. 5. Sub-districts consist of all locals and isolated branches within a territory prescribed by the District Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. All sub-districts within a prescribed territory shall form a district. The limits of districts are determined by the C. E. C. Districts and sub-districts shall be organized within industrial sections regardless of political boundaries.

Art. V. Conventions

Sec. 1. The Convention is the supreme body of the Party, and shall be called by the C.E.C. at least once year.

Sec. 2. Emergency conventions, with all the powers of regular conventions, shall be called by the C.E.C., upon its own initiative whenever conditions demand, or upon the demand of three district conventions representing at least 25 per cent of the total membership of the Party.

Sec. 3. Emergency District Conventions shall be held upon the demand of not less than 50 per cent of the membership of the district as expressed through the regular Party channels.

Sec. 4. Elections to the convention shall begin in the groups. Each group shall elect one member to the branch electors meeting, which shall elect delegates to the local electors meeting. Branches that are directly connected with the sub-district shall send their electors to the nearest local. Representation in the local, sub-district and district electors meetings, and in the convention of the Party shall be fixed by the convention call issued by the Central Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. Branch, local, sub-district and district organizers of the Party shall attend the electors meetings of their respective units, and shall have voice but no vote, unless elected as delegates themselves.

Sec. 6. Sub-district and district electors meetings may elect as their delegates members of the Party from any unit outside of their territorial divisions.

Art. VI. Central Executive Committee

Sec. 1. Between the meetings of the convention, the Central Executive Committee, elected by the convention, shall act as the supreme body of the Party.

Sec. 2. The C.E.C. shall consist of nine members, who shall have the right of co-optation.

Sec. 3. Candidates for the C.E.C. must have been members of the C. P. of A., or of a party affiliated with the Communist International, for two consecutive years, or since the organization of the Party.

Sec. 4. Members who are not delegates to, or not present at the convention, must be supported by not less than four delegates, when nominated for the C.E.C.

Sec. 5. The identity of the C.E.C. members shall not be made known, either by themselves or by those present at the convention.

Sec. 6. Upon presentation and investigation of charges against a member of the C.E.C. he may be suspended from the C.E.C. by a majority vote, pending investigation. He may be expelled by a vote of not less than seven members. The accused C.E.C. member shall not vote.

Sec. 7. The C.E.C. shall elect the Executive Secretary of the Party, the Editor and two other members of the Editorial Committee and the Technician of the Party; also International Delegates as required, who shall work under the direct control of the C.E.C.

Sec. 8. The Technician of the Party shall work in conjunction with and under the supervision of the Executive Secretary.

Sec. 9. The Party Editor shall carry on his work in conjunction with the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee shall have power between the meetings of the C.E.C. to decide questions of policy and expression in the Party press and literature, in conformity with the decision of the C.E.C.

Sec. 10. The C.E.C. shall call conferences with district organizers and federation secretaries, or representatives of the Federation Executive Committees as often as necessary.

Sec. 11. The C.E.C. shall make a monthly financial report to the membership.

Sec. 12. A complete audit and accounting of all Party funds shall be made once every six months. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members elected by the convention. The convention shall also elect three alternates. No member of the C.E.C. and no paid Party official shall be a member of the Auditing Committee. Complete report of the Auditing Committee shall be made to the membership within one month after the completion of its work.

Art. VII. District and Subordinate Units

Sec. 1. The C.E.C. shall appoint district organizers for each district.

Sec. 2. District organizers shall appoint sub-district organizers, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee. The District Executive Committee shall consist of the Party district organizer and sub-district organizers, and Federation district organizers.

It shall work under the direction of the Party district organizer.

Sec. 3. District organizers shall make complete reports to the District Executive Committee, as to the general Party work in his district. He shall transmit and carry out the instructions and decisions of the C.E.C. He shall make remittances, financial statements and reports to the C.E.C. at least once a week. He shall submit financial statements to the membership in his district at least once a month.

Sec. 4. Sub-district organizers shall make remittances, financial statements and reports to the district organizers once a week.

Sec. 6. Federation district organizers shall make financial statements and reports to the district executive committee at least once a month.

The sub-district executive committee shall consist of the sub-district organizer and local organizers, or directly connected branch organizer of the Party, and the Federation sub-district organizers. Sub-district organizers shall call meetings of the sub-district executive committees twice a month. They shall make complete reports to their committees and transmit and carry out the decisions and the instructions of the C.E.C., the district organizer and the district executive committee.

Sec. 7. The local executive committee shall consist of the branch organizers, and the local organizer, appointed by the sub-district organizer subject to the approval of the district executive committee. Branch organizers shall be elected by the group organizers. They shall work under the direction of the local organizer and shall meet at least once a week.

Sec. 8. The branch executive committee consists of the branch organizer and the group organizers within the branch. The branch executive committee shall meet at least once a week. Group organizers (captains) shall be Party members at least six months. Branch organizers shall have been Party members at least one year.

Sec. 9. Executive committees of the various Party units have the authority to act within their jurisdiction subject to decisions of higher Party units.

Sec. 10. Each group shall meet at least once every week, under the direction of the group organizer (captain), who shall make a complete report to his group on all party work, on the activities of his branch and of all other Party units.

Art. VIII. Federations

Sec. 1. Language federations are integral parts of the Communist Party of America and are subject to the dictatorship and control of the Party.

Sec. 2. Shortly after Party conventions, language federations shall hold annual conventions which shall elect their executive committees, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee of the Party.

Sec. 3. Federation executive committees shall consist of not more than seven members, who shall have the right of co-optation.

Sec. 4. The minutes of the Federation Executive Committee shall be regularly submitted to the C.E.C. of the Party.

Sec. 6. Federation by-laws and decisions of their conventions shall conform to the Communist Party program and constitution and shall be submitted to the C.E.C. of the Party for approval.

Sec. 6. Federation executive committees shall appoint their district organizers for each district of the Party.

Sec. 7. Federation Executive Committees shall translate and issue to their membership all statements, circulars and communications addressed to the membership by the C.E.C. of the Party, within one week after their receipt.

Sec. 8. Federations shall make financial returns to the Party C.E.C. by the tenth of each month. They shall make a complete financial report to their membership and to the C.E.C. of the Party once a month.

Sec. 9. Each federation shall issue an underground official organ in its respective language, under the control of the Fed. Exec. Com. to be published at least once a month. The general policy of the federation official organ shall be under the control of the C.E.C. of the Party. Federations may publish books and papers under the general supervision of the C.E.C. of the Party.

Sec. 10. All language branches shall join and become part of their respective federation. There shall be only one federation of each language. No federations shall be formed with less than 250 members.

Art. IX. Discipline

Sec. 1. All members and units of the Party shall maintain and enforce strict Party discipline. All decisions of the governing bodies of the Party shall be binding upon the membership and subordinate units of the Party.

Sec. 2. The following offenses shall be deemed breach of Party discipline: 1) Violation of the fundamental principles of the program and constitution of the Party; 2) Refusal to accept and carry out the decisions of the Party; 3) Wilfully to block and disrupt Party work and the cooperation of the various Party units; 4)