

National Council and New N. E. C.

Dear Comrade Wagenknecht:

THE National Council of the Left Wing Section, Socialist Party, has decided to sever relations with the new N. E. C. and the Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party. In accordance with this decision and my own convictions, I tender my resignation from the N. E. C.

At its sessions, the new N. E. C. decided in favor of an American Communist Party. The realization of this decision now makes mandatory the acceptance of the Communist Party Convention of September 1 as the only real force that assures the actual formation of the Communist Party, which the N. E. C. declared in favor of.

The N. E. C., however, in spite of its declaration, is not assuring the organization of the Communist Party.

In order to make the logical deduction of its declaration, the new N. E. C. should have held an Emergency Convention of its own, as the organ of the Socialist Party, to organize a Communist Party. This was not done; and it was not done because certain members of the new N. E. C., such as Katterfeld and Harwood, are much more interested in the unity of the old party than they are in the construction of a Communist Party.

What was in my mind at the N. E. C. meeting, and what was the basis of the decision to carry the fight to the Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party, was that the new

C. would assume complete control of the Convention. This implied actually holding a Socialist Party convention other than the convention of the old N. E. C. This, again, implied holding our Emergency Convention in a hall other than that secured by the old N. E. C., with our own roster of delegates, and our own organization separate from that of the old N. E. C. But your decision, as Temporary Secretary of the new N. E. C., to hold

Letter from Louis C. Fraina to A. Wagenknecht, Temporary Secretary N. E. C., Socialist Party.

"our" convention in the same hall as Germer's breaks the plan completely. Any Left Wing delegates who now go to the Emergency Convention are going to the convention of Germer & Co., packed by the moderates in order to secure control for counter-revolutionary Socialism.

The original plan for the fight within the party was right; but owing to the defection of the Federation elements and owing—let us admit it—to our own hesitation, this plan was completely spoiled. To adhere to it now, under new conditions, is to co-operate with Centre elements and to act against the Communist Party.

As I see it now, the revolutionary course that the new N. E. C. should have followed was, after its declaration in favor of a Communist Party, either to call for a Communist Party Convention or immediately resign and leave the fulfillment of this declaration to the only body capable of realizing it—the National Council of the Left Wing Section, Socialist Party. Either of these acts have made the issue clear as a Communist issue; it would have challenged the party; it would have split the old party immediately. But the split apparently was not desired by Katterfeld and Harwood. They want to maintain the unity of the party and throw out the old administration—to "throw out the crooks," as Harwood phrases. Our struggle, however, is not a struggle against the administration or the "crooks," but a struggle to separate the revolutionary elements from the moderate elements, and construct a Communist Party. It is necessary to split the old party in order to realize a Communist Party in fact as well as in name. The new N. E. C. in order actually to realize the Communist Party it resolved in

favor of, must recognize this necessity for a split and rally the revolutionary masses in the Socialist Party for the Communist Convention.

I did not realize, at the N. E. C. sessions, that our acts in constructing a new organization of the N. E. C., was not in accord with the project of the Communist Party. I now realize the vital necessity of the new N. E. C. ceasing to function after the declaration for a Communist Party; and I act accordingly by tendering my resignation.

What can be accomplished by going to the convention of Germer & Co.? The state of Ohio has been expelled, and you are now no longer a member of the Socialist Party. You will not be admitted to the Emergency Convention, which is a Germer convention: how, then, can you call it to order as "decided" by the new N. E. C.?

I still maintain my position at the National Left Wing Conference. I still maintain that there was real value in the declaration for a Communist Party by the new N. E. C. But I now maintain that the logical action necessary to realize our purposes is to concentrate all our Left Wing forces for the Communist Party Convention of September 1.

It was simply a flourish for the new N. E. C. to "re-instate" the expelled and suspended comrades, who refuse to go back to the old party and are solid for a Communist Party.

The decision of the National Council in issuing a joint call for a Communist Party Convention is, in my opinion, in complete accord with the purposes of the National Left Wing Conference. Our mandate was to work for the realization of the Communist Party; and the new decision of the National Council is necessary in order to actually realize the Communist Party which the Conference desired.

August 13.

LOUIS C. FRAINA.

Greater New York News

BRONX NOTES

Branch 4 will hold a series of lectures at its headquarters 1258 Boston Road, Bronx, every Thursday evening.

* * *

The headquarters of Local Bronx will be temporarily located at the headquarters of Branch 4, 1258 Boston Road.

Massachusetts Convention

The Special Massachusetts Convention of August 10th endorsed the Joint Call for the September first Communist Convention by vote of 62 to 7. The State Organization was at once made part of the new party to be organized at the Chicago Convention.

This decisive step is all the more significant in that the Convention contained practically no Federation representatives, due to the split in the Left Wing. Massachusetts has about 6000 Socialist Party members, and these are divided into three fairly equal parts. The right Wing is largely made up of Finnish branches, and it is certain that a reactionary officialdom cannot hold this membership out of the Communist Party. One third of the membership had joined itself with the Minority Conference Convention, and this makes two-thirds

of the Massachusetts membership solidly within the Communist camp at the outset.

Massachusetts has set a splendid example for the nation. The spirit and action of this Special Convention are of the highest promise for the Communist Party—and for the working class movement everywhere.

The Call for Communist Convention (Continued from page 8)

will be created to defray their traveling expenses. Expenses other than railroad fares will be paid by the organizations sending delegates. In the event the delegates are not provided with funds for rooms and meals effort will be made to assist them.

Do not fail to be represented at this historic Convention. All delegates, either directly or through their local secretaries, are requested to communicate with the National Secretary immediately following their election. Uniform credential blanks will be furnished.

For the National Left Wing Council,

I. E. FERGUSON, Sec'y.

For the National Organization Committee,

DENNIS E. BATT, Sec'y.

On all matters relating to the Communist Convention, address:
1221 Blue Island Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

THE New York Central Committee at its last meeting decided to reconsider its action to send delegates to the National Emergency Convention and to concur with the National Council's action in issuing a joint call for the Communist Convention in Chicago on September 1st.

Ballots are out and branches are already voting. Those branches which have not yet procured same should do so immediately and call special meetings to vote for the delegates.

Ballots should be in this office by August 20th.

Second Bi-Weekly Letter To Enrolled Socialists—is now ready for distribution to branches. Price per hundred letters 60 cents.

Emergency Due Stamps and Emergency Party cards are now ready and can be procured at this office.

Special Propaganda Stamps are also ready and the Left Wing comrades should do their best to push the sale of these stamps among the comrades and friends and sympathizers. Every comrade should carry a book of these stamps with him to the shop and union meetings and sell them to his comrades. At the same time it gives him an opportunity of explaining the Left Wing organization to those workers who as yet are in the dark about our movement.

The 8th A. D. meets every Thursday evening at the Socialist Party Headquarters, 122 Second Ave. All members are requested to send in their new addresses to the Secretary, Comrade Lichtinthal.

MAX COHEN, Executive Sec'y
48 West 29th Street, New York