
Agreement for the Unification of the American Communist Party and the American Communist Labor Party [signed Jan. 12, 1920].

A document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 21, ll. 1-2.

1. For the purpose of uniting both Communist Parties of America, a Bureau of Unity is to be established. This Bureau is to be composed of six members, each Party sending three comrades.

2. The immediate task of the Unity Bureau is to call a convention to unite the two Parties. The basis of representation in this convention to be alike for both Parties, and to be based on the number of members of both Parties in good standing on January 1st, 1920. Until the realization of complete unity, the Bureau coordinates and directs the work of both Parties, organizes demonstrations, issues joint publications, and distributes material of both Parties.

3. At the convention the Party accepts the name: THE UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA.

4. The Convention is to be the supreme organ of the Party.

5. The Convention elects a Central Committee which is the supreme organ of the Party during the intervals between the Conventions.

6. In case of necessity, a Party Conference is to be called; the decisions of which become obligatory only upon their being confirmed by the Central Committee.

7. During the period of the struggle for power, the referendum is not considered advisable, and should be reduced to a minimum. Its complete abolition is most desirable.

8. National Federations, whose primary rea-

son for existence is the necessity for propaganda work among the non-English-speaking masses in their own language, must of course be retained for this purpose. But these Federations must not have any independent legislative or administrative functions, except such as are delegated to them by the Party Convention, or the Central Committee of the Party, to whose authority they must unqualifiedly submit. The function of the Federations must not be to maintain the foreign-born workers in isolated organizations, speaking their own language, but to bring the foreign-born workers as speedily as possible into the English-speaking movement. For this reason the Central Committee of the Party shall have the power to draft into the English-speaking Party units of such foreign-born workers who are capable of taking an active part in the English-speaking movement.

9. Party dues must be paid into the Party treasury through the Local and State Party organizations, and not through the Federation Central Committees. Of course, all funds raised by the Federations for their own purposes, exclusive of dues stamps, shall be their own property, to be used in their own work.

10. All press and propaganda authorized and issued by the National Federations shall be subject to the control of the Party Central Committee.

11. Federations shall not have the right to expel or suspend their branches or members.

Charges against members or branches in the Federations must be brought before the Central Committee of the local Party unit, which alone, subject to the Central Committee [of the national party], has the power to suspend or expel members and branches.

12. There must be only one Federation for each foreign language group in the Party. All members of the Party who cannot take part in the English-speaking branches must join their Federation. However, the Federation cannot refuse to accept any member or branch without the consent of the Central Committee or organs to which this power is delegated. Exclusion of a foreign-speaking member from the Federation means exclusion from the Party.

For the Communist Labor Party of America,

John Reed,
International Delegate.

*For the Russian Federations: Russian, Lettish,
Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian,*

John P. Anderson,
Delegate to Soviet Russia.

Moscow,
January 12, 1920.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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