
Two letters to A. Wagenknecht in New York from Charles Dirba in New York, February 9 & 26, 1920.

Handwritten documents in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 33, ll. 48 & 50.

First Letter

Feb. 9, 1920

To the CEC of the Communist Labor Party
Reply of the CEC of the Communist Party
as to Unity Proposition.

On clause 1, as to difference in fundamental principles, the CP cannot consistently join in or subscribe to a declaration that there are no such differences between the CP and the CLP, although it could not object to such a declaration coming from the CLP.

On clause 2, as to the basis for a joint Convention, the CP holds that tentative acceptance of its Manifesto and Program, and also of those parts of the Constitution setting forth the fundamental relationship of Language Federations within the Party, is necessary. It is understood that underground form of organization and conditions of membership affecting representation in the joint convention are to be made the same in the CLP as in the CP to insure equal basis of representation. It is further understood that the joint convention will be arranged as soon as possible within the next six months.

On clause 3, as to immediate consolidation of the CECs of the two organizations to conduct together the work of defense, organization, and propaganda while the Federations would continue as heretofore, the CEC of the CP positively decided against such consolidation as inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the CP, and as

impracticable in present situation. The CP holds that the only road to organic communist unity is a joint convention.

For any further explanations and conference the undersigned will be glad to meet with representatives of the CLP at any agreed time and place.

Bunte [Charles Dirba], Bernstein [Maxmilian
Cohen] & [Walter?] Gabriel
Committee of the CEC of CP

Second Letter

Feb. 26, 1920

A. Wagenknecht, Exec. Sec.,
Communist Labor Party,
City

Dear Comrade:

Owing to arrest in Detroit and subsequent detention at Chicago of Comrade Ruthenberg, your letter has come delayed into my hands.

And as you have set a date by which you expect to hear from him, I am writing now, but only in an informal way, as I do not have the authority or the records to reply fully.

Our Committee did make a reply to your proposition, and this reply, in writing, was given to Comrade Ruthenberg for transmission to your committee. I know he sent it to you, but you may have received it after you wrote for it, or it may

have been lost in the mails.

I am sorry I do not have a copy of this reply. Essentially it was as follows:

On the first clause: We could not consistently join in, or subscribe to such a declaration, but could not object to it being made by the CLP.

On the second clause: We maintain that acceptance of those provisions of our constitution setting forth the relations of the Federations in the Party is necessary for the basis of a joint convention, it being understood that the joint convention should be arranged within the next six months.

On the third clause: Immediate consolidation of the Executive Committees — and the organization, propaganda, and defense work — while the Federations would continue as at present, was rejected by our CEC as inconsistent with our principles and impracticable in the present circumstances — the only road to a real, organic unity being a joint convention.

As to the publication of the proceedings, I might call your attention to the fact that it has already been done in the recent issue of *The Communist*. This letter is not written to prevent your steps in the same direction, but merely to inform you of the fact in the case.

In our reply it was also mentioned that we would be glad to attend another joint conference, if your committee desired one.

Fraternally,

Chas. Dirba

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