
Letter to the Unity Committee of the UCP in New York from Charles Dirba, Executive Secretary of the CPA in New York, Dec. 30, 1920.

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 239.

December 30, 1920.

To the Unity Committee of the
United Communist Party of America.

Comrades:

Having examined your official records we find the total of July, August, September, and October [1920] dues shown on your statement, that is, \$12,004.70, representing an average of 4001 dues per month, is substantially correct.†

As to the additions claimed by you: 1) 150 for membership in Districts 11 [Seattle] and 12 [Minneapolis], whose dues, you say, have been used for organization expenses in those districts themselves;‡ 2) [150] for married comrades, to whom one single stamp has been sold for both husband and wife; and 3) 260 for July [1920] dues paid at the old rates of 50¢ for CLP membership and 40¢ for CP [Ruthenberg group]: We think that the first and third items are a little too high. However, since there seems to be no method by which they could be definitely ascertained or disputed, and since the error must of itself be quite small, we are willing to allow the additions in full.

This brings the total average July, August, September, and October dues paying membership of your party up to 4,561, and we are willing to accept these figures as the basis upon which to calculate the UCP delegation to the Joint Convention, as soon as you

have verified and accept our membership report submitted to you on the 28th of November, and showing a total average July, August, September, and October dues paying membership of the Communist Party of 7,552.

We have submitted to you for examination and comparison all the official books and records of the Communist Party which you requested. You have examined and compared them, and you have not indicated any discrepancies between our records and the statement submitted by you.

It is up to you now to act on our statement.

The time for the joint convention is very short. Every day must be counted and used in the preliminary arrangements.

The joint call must be drawn up, approved by both Central Executive Committees, and sent out to the membership immediately. The time for the convention must be fixed, and the place found without delay.

We insist that your committee come to meet with out committee again within the next few days.

Let us know at once when you can come to the next meeting.

Fraternally,

C. Dobin [Charles Dirba],
Executive Secretary,
Communist Party of America.

†- This statement indicates that the UCP kept its membership statistics in terms of cash received rather than actual stamps sold, a very strange method for tracking membership size. The figures provided indicate a dues rate for the organization of 75¢ per month.

‡- UCP Districts 11 and 12 did not have full-time paid District Organizers, although the DO in Seattle drew a half salary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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