
**Circular Letter to All UCP Groups
from Alfred Wagenknecht [“Paul Holt”],
Outgoing Executive Secretary,
June 1, 1921. †**

Photostat in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA collection M-1085, reel 942.

One to each group—
Read—
Destroy.

June 1, 1921.

COMRADES!—

The joint convention of the UCP and the CP has been held [Woodstock, NY: May 15-28, 1921]. UNITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED!

We address the UCP groups to officially inform them of this fact and to notify them that, beginning with this date, the new CEC, elected at the joint convention, takes office to administer the affairs of the unified party.‡

The convention minutes, the new program and constitution, will appear at an early date in the party bulletin of official organs. Groups are asked to give these documents thorough study. Especially must they acquaint themselves with the new organization form as it pertains to language groups.

The new 60¢ dues rate will go into effect on

July 1st [1921]. Until that date and for June, all UCP members will pay dues at the rate of 75¢. Every member, to be admitted into the united party, must pay his dues to date. Also, all former UCP groups and affiliations will function as till now and until the new CEC, through regular party channels, sends its instructions.

With unity, the building of a virile, powerful Communist Party in this country becomes an immediate possibility. Energy and time formerly used in duplication of work because of dual organization will now be released and applied to the many tasks which confront the advance guard of the working class. Educational work, propaganda, organization — all these will now go forward with double speed. All work from now on will be more efficient and planful, for it is now centralized into one party and one executive is at the helm.

UCP members, groups, and officials will all cooperate to make the amalgamation complete. We shall have organic unity just as soon as the technicalities incident to the amalgamation of the two parties will have been completed. But we must have spiritual unity also. A true spirit of comradesly

†- According to the BoI's secret informant in the Pittsburgh District, "Ryan," the pseudonym "Paul Holt" referred to Ludwig Katterfeld (see his answers to questions by the Bureau, NARA M-1085, reel 942). "Ryan" also identifies the pseudonym "Alden" as belonging to Katterfeld, however — and we know that the 3 person Nov. 1920 Unity Committee of the UCP consisted of "Holt," "Alden," and "McGee." Therefore, one of these identifications by "Ryan" is incorrect. It remains the contention of the editor that the name "Holt" was used by Alfred Wagenknecht, not by Ludwig Katterfeld. The discrepancy is hereby noted.

‡- The new CEC of the unified CPA consisted of: George Ashkenuzi (old CPA), John Ballam (old CPA), James Cannon (UCP), Charles Dirba (old CPA), Abram Jakira (UCP), Ludwig Katterfeld (UCP), Joseph Zack Kornfeder (UCP), Jay Lovestone (UCP), Joseph Stilson (old CPA), and J. Wilenkin (old CPA). Katterfeld used a new pseudonym after this convention ("J. Carr"), making it impossible to resolve the "Paul Holt" question above definitively.

cooperation must prevail.

Imperialism has but one foe — the Communist International. American Capitalism has but one foe — the unified Communist Party. To build a party which will prove victorious over American Capitalism and so strengthen the Communist International in its struggle against World Capitalism — this should be the aim of every party member.

FORWARD MARCH! This is the command. We shall profit by errors and eradicate weakness, always. But the command remains — FORWARD MARCH!

Fraternally,

Paul Holt [Alfred Wagenknecht],
Executive Secretary,
UCP.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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