
Letter to Louis C. Fraina from William Weinstone in New York, Jan. 10, 1922

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 100, l. 5.

Jan. 10, 1922.

Dear Com. Carter [Fraina]:

We have cabled you this day as follows:

Tell Carter [Fraina] his firm [American Agency of Comintern] liquidated by Main Office [Moscow]. All assets to be turned over at once to the American firm [CPA]. Also report of assets and liabilities requested. † Acknowledge reply.

Lewis [Weinstone] Contemp. Pub. Co. [CPA] ‡

We sent you a similar wire about 3 or 4 weeks ago when we first received this information, but it was returned because of removal of address. This is official and final, brought to us from the Main Office [Moscow] by our del. [Robert Minor]. We look forward to word from you, making arrangements for the carrying out of these instructions. Kindly let us hear from you at once regarding this matter.

Fraternally yours,

G. Lewis,
Execsec CPA.

†- This is an official request by CPA Executive Secretary Weinstone that Fraina turn over a statement and the remaining balance of the \$30,000 appropriation of the Comintern that was provided the “American Agency.” The AA consisted of ex-old CPAer Fraina, ex-UCPer Karlis “Charley” Janson (“Scott”), and the non-factional Sen Katayama (“Yavki”) and was given the task of helping to unify the feuding American movement and to advance the work of the Comintern and Profintern in North America. Instead of carrying out the Comintern’s direction to turn over his remaining funds, Fraina wound up absconding with the treasury, leaving the Communist Party of America on the verge of bankruptcy.

‡- Weinstone’s signature here as representative of the “Contemporary Publishing Co.” is a slight mangling of the name of the old CPA’s legal publishing arm, the “Contemporary Publishing Association” — the acronym of which was not accidental.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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