
From Recent Mails: Report to ECCI No. 1, January 11th, 1922.

by L.E. Katterfeld

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, ll. 108-110.

Confidential.

Workers Party Organized.

The following cable has just been received from the Communist Party of America:

“Workers Party formed, program abolition of Capitalism, establishment Workers’ Republic. Constitution: Democratic Centralization. CEC seven out of ten Party members. Full report follows.”

The Paris edition of the *New York Tribune* carries a little news article to the effect that radicals in America are greatly displeased with the new party because of its *mild* program.

I have nothing as yet to indicate whether an underground Party convention was held prior to the public convention, or not. The cable instructing the American comrades to postpone the public convention until February [1922] and to hold an underground convention first seems not to have reached them; at least, I have received no acknowledgment of it. My letter referring to the matter could not have reached them before the new year; this means that the legal party has been launched before the theses adopted by the EC of the CI arrived there. Ballister [Robert Minor] took the theses with him personally and was due to arrive in New York last week. [Joseph] Kowalski also had a copy of the theses and is due to arrive there next week. I feel sure that if any action of the convention was not strictly in harmony with the theses, the matter will be remedied upon arrival of these comrades over there.

The Party Controversy.

The statement by the Central Executive Committee of the CP of A, in answer to the appeal of the “minority” members [Central Caucus faction] has been received and is being translated into German. This statement agrees in every particular with the theses adopted by the EC of CI, it points out the fact that the “minority” is constantly shifting its position until it now accepts the organization of the legal party “in principle,” while opposing it in practice. It answers completely, not only every point made by the “minority,” in its appeal against the immediate organization of the legal party, but also the arguments of the Workers’ Council Centrists against the necessity of keeping intact and building up the underground party organization. This statement shows that the CEC of the CP of A, which is responsible for the forming of the new legal party, is not leading the movement into the swamp of liquidation, as the “minority” charges, but has the correct tactics as laid down by the Communist International.

This same Bulletin also announces the suspension of the three “minority” members of the CEC [John Ballam, George Ashkenuzi, Charles Dirba], and makes reference to other suspended and expelled members. In my opinion, the International should take no further part in this controversy within the American Party, except perhaps to advise that any suspended members should be reinstated in the Party with full rights immediately upon expressing his willingness to abide by the Party’s decision.

Debs' Release.

Eugene V. Debs was freed on Christmas Day [1921], his sentence having been commuted by President Harding. Last summer the EC of the CP of A elected a Committee of 2 of Debs' personal friends to see him immediately upon his release, whenever that might take place, and prevail upon him not to commit himself publicly to any party until he had visited Moscow. If Debs went back to the Socialist Party, he would give it a new lease of life; if he went to some new Centrist Party, he would put it on its feet. Although, of course, Ballister [Minor] carries no official invitation to Debs, he will convey to him the personal wish of comrades here. In an interview Debs told the *Tribune* reporter that he "might accept an invitation to visit Moscow."

Famine Relief.

On December 17th [1921], the amount collected by the Friends of Soviet Russia was over \$265,000 and other working class organizations about \$150,000; this means that today the total for the American working class must be well over half a million dollars. The Famine Relief work is being pushed harder now than ever before.

English Daily.

Announcements in various party papers show that funds are now being collected to make *The Toiler* a daily paper, but I have as yet no details.

Jewish Daily.

Jewish comrades here in Moscow have received word that *Naye Welt*, published by the Jewish Socialist

Federation, is being combined with the *Emmes* as a weekly propaganda paper, and that a new Jewish daily is being started called *Freiheit*.

Italian Section.

An Italian section of the American Labor Alliance has been organized and is working to split the remains of the Italian Socialist Federation away from the Socialist Party.

Proletarian Party.

According to the last reports, the Proletarian Party had refused our invitation to participation in the formation of the legal Party.

Wall Street Explosion.

According to the Paris edition of the New York Herald and the Chicago Tribune, a man calling himself William Linde, who claims to have attended the Congress here in Moscow and to be familiar with our organization in America, has made a "confession" to the effect that the Communist Party of America received \$3,000 from the Communist International for attempting to expedite Mr. Morgan of Wall Street into the hereafter with a bomb. In his statement, Linde names ten members of the Communist Party as being the guilty ones. [William] Burns is reported by the papers to maintain that this confession of Linde's clears up the entire mystery, and that he will soon have the guilty parties under arrest. (To be continued in our next).

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(America).

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