
**Letter of Protest to ECCI
from John J. Ballam [“John Moore”],
Special Representative of the
Central Caucus Faction’s CPA,
March 18, 1922.**

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 128, ll. 15-16.

March 18th, 1922

To the EC of the CI.

Comrades:

The undersigned has been sent to the Comintern to represent 5,000 comrades in America, whose fidelity to the principles of the Communist International has never been questioned, and whose devotion to the Proletarian Revolution in Russia and throughout the world is beyond doubt.

These comrades in America sent me to the EC of the CI expecting to obtain at least a complete and thorough hearing and investigation of the causes and incidents leading up to the present deplorable situation in the American Communist movement. At the instigation of Comrades Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld] and Marshall [Max Bedacht] the proceedings of the commission appointed by the EC to report upon the American situation were hurried and the investigation far from satisfactory. There was no stenographer present and no adequate interpreter. From my observation the commission kept no records and called no witnesses. I had no opportunity to present documents which contained important information, although these documents are in the possession of the Comintern. Comrade Carr [Katterfeld] informed me

upon the first hour of my arrival that my case would be settled very quickly, and that he had already drawn up a letter which he said I must sign. At the very first hearing conducted by the commission Comrade Marshall [Bedacht] informed the commission that he had his passports vised and therefore wanted the proceedings to be hurried as he wanted to return to the US with the decision of the Comintern in his pocket. I must therefore most emphatically protest against the manner in which the American case was conducted, and assert that no adequate solution of the difficulty can be achieved in this haphazard manner. If the EC of the CI wishes to support Comrade Carr [Katterfeld] and his friends in the face of a growing and determined opposition not only among the comrades who have given me their mandate to represent them, but also among the faction directly represented by Carr [Katterfeld] and Marshall [Bedacht] the consequences will rest squarely upon the EC.

I have been and am now ready to subscribe to any compromise which will liquidate the factional struggle in the American Party, and have offered such a compromise in writing, but the Executive Committee of the Comintern cannot expect the comrades whom I represent to again place themselves under the heel of the bureaucrats which have so unceremoniously expelled

them. We demand from the Comintern adequate guarantees that our membership rights shall not be violated, and cannot yield, under the circumstances, unless such guarantees are provided. We want to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Comintern and for its principles and policies. We are loyal soldiers in the proletarian revolution, and we firmly believe that the action that we are forced to take is in the interest of the movement in America and therefore in the best interests of the world proletariat.

We implore the EC of the CI to thoroughly investigate the American party and all the events leading up to the present situation. If we can get such an investigation we feel sure that the Comintern itself will discover that the entire American question has been misrepresented and the Comintern will find a way to settle these difficulties satisfactorily to the needs of the American movement and to all parties concerned.

Fraternally submitted,

John Moore [John J. Ballam].

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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