
Report No. 14 from Moscow, April 1, 1922.

by L.E. Katterfeld

Signed with the pseudonym "John Carr." Copy in Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, l. 38.

Number 14

April 1, 1922 *gal Party, the Workers Party of America, the formation of which prompted the Nov. 1921 split]*

Dear Friends:

Between my letter 13 [*copy not found in delo 93*] and this one you were sent a most important one with the seal of the Home Office [*Comintern*] itself upon it, containing the official decision regarding the contest brought against our Branch by that bunch of disgruntled salesmen [*the Ballam/Dirbal/Ashkenudzie group*]. I had this translated into all the languages affected [*certain of the Slavic federations, particularly the Ukrainian, Latvian, and Russian, left in large numbers during this Nov. 1921 split*], and it was mailed to you within one day from the time that the decision was made final. I thought that it would have more effect among the nationalities to be able to show them copy with the original seal on it. Hope you make full use of this.

As far as can be judged from outward signs John [Ballam] has capitulated completely, although he did make one hell of a roar while he was at it. He promises to use all his "influence" with his side to get them to obey the decision to liquidate their business immediately [*that is, terminate their parallel Communist organization, the Central Caucus/United Toilers Party*]. Says he has been converted. However I would let him prove it before killing the fatted calf.

You will note that EVERY one of their side that wants to come back and also join the LP [*Le-*

gal Party, the Workers Party of America, the formation of which prompted the Nov. 1921 split] is to be allowed to do so without prejudice and that the picnic [*1922 Unity Convention*] is to be held late enough so that all that do this within sixty days can participate in the festivities. That means sixty days from the time that you send out the decision of the Home Office. That will give time to line up all of the customers [*party members*] that are any good, and I hope that you will start as energetic an advertising campaign as possible among them at once.

The Ukrainian salesman [*Ukrainian CI representative sent to solidify the defecting Ukrainian party members behind the reunified organization*] will arrive within a week. So will John. And within a week after will arrive a special representative of the Home Office who is to remain with us a few months [*Comintern plenipotentiary Genrikh Valetskii*] who is to remain with us a few months. You must show him every courtesy possible. He is by no means to supervise or supercede our Branch but will have the widest powers in case of trouble. In my opinion he will be a great help in this special advertising campaign as he speaks a number of languages of those that are needed.

Your wire saying that I should return and that M [*"Marshall" = Max Bedacht*] should take my place [*as American Rep to the Comintern*] has arrived, but M was already gone. However I am to see him in Berlin anyway, and shall then break the news to him gently. I am afraid that he will not be

willing to return to the post, as he had his head strongly set homeward. If he does return to the post it will be under protest and he will be very discontented. So I think it would be well, if you have not already done so in answer to my wire, for you to send another salesman to this territory at once. It would be well to send one who can then stay till fall and be one of our representatives at the big Congress in October as this frequent running back and forth is fearfully expensive.

I shall come home as soon as the special business in Berlin is attended to [*this reference unknown*]. You will know by cable already before this letter reaches you whether that means one week or two months. I hope of course that I will be able to beat this letter home. But I feel duty bound, since I was honored by the Home Office with being placed in the delegation for this very important mission, to really do my best on that before leaving, and I am sure you will agree with this. As it is I am a couple of days late because of that monkeybusiness with John [*Ballam had come to Moscow to state the case of his faction before the Executive Committee of the Communist International and there had been a delay which resulted due to the late arrival of certain documents*], but I would not

leave the Home Office till that was settled, and I "had his signature on the dotted line." Until that was accomplished it was the most important business in the world for me.

Be sure to keep on sending all information to the Home Office [*minutes of the Executive Committee meetings, organizational reports, and such*] even when you know that none of us are there, as one of the Secretaries will attend to our matters just the same. I made sure of that before leaving. Oh, yes, and each one of the language Sections at the Home Office is to write a special letter to their compatriots in the US, telling them where to head in at.

Also I attended to the shipment of the goods you have been hoping for and in due time they will reach you now [*almost certainly a reference to literature, based on comments in subsequent report made by Carr from Berlin*].

So mote it be.

Yours,

J. Carr [Ludwig E. Katterfeld]