

Membership Series by District for the Workers Party of America.

“Dues Actually Paid” — (March to June) vs. (July to Oct.) 1922 and 8 Month Average.

Original document based upon data presented to 2nd Convention WPA, Dec. 24, 1922. Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 148, l. 109.

C.E. Ruthenberg's Commentary: Although the convention at which the Party was organized was held exactly a year ago, it was not until the month of February [1922] that the Party began working as an organization. What the reasons were for the delay in building the machinery of the Party the present Executive Secretary is unable to say, but all of the records of the Party seem to indicate that it was not until February that the organization work got well under way and dues payments in a large measure did not begin until March.† The membership figures here given are therefore divided into two periods: one March,

April, May, and June [1922] and the other the months of July, August, September, and October...

For the month of November the reports are not yet complete but the dues payments received (with the Federations and district not reported estimated) show 16,500 dues stamps sold. It is a safe estimate that with all the new members added to the Party through the Czecho-Slovak Federation, the Scandinavian Federation, and the United Toilers that the dues payments for December [1922] and January [1923] will reach a total of 20,000.

Date	Boston D1	New York D2	Philadelphia D3	Pittsburgh D5	Cleveland D6	Detroit D7	Chicago D8	Minneapolis D9	St. Louis D10	Seattle D12	San Francisco D13	n/a UNORG	TOTAL
March to June (ave.)	1031	2251	407	354	754	485	1022	857	305	337	399	118	8,320
<i>percentage</i>	12.4%	27.1%	4.9%	4.3%	9.1%	5.8%	12.3%	10.3%	3.7%	4.1%	4.8%	1.4%	
July to Oct. (ave.)	2031	3175	411	707	1160	656	1242	1470	381	445	498	218	12,394
<i>percentage</i>	16.4%	25.6%	3.3%	5.7%	9.4%	5.3%	10.0%	11.9%	3.1%	3.6%	4.0%	1.8%	
8 MONTH AVE.	1531	2713	409	531	957	571	1132	1164	343	391	449	168	10,357‡
<i>PERCENTAGE</i>	14.8%	26.2%	3.9%	5.1%	9.2%	5.5%	10.9%	11.2%	3.3%	3.8%	4.3%	1.6%	

†- At the founding of the WPA, C.E. Ruthenberg was locked up in Sing Sing Prison, New York, serving a 5 year sentence for violation of the state's "Criminal Anarchism" law. He was released on bail pending appeal on April 17, 1922, and almost immediately was inserted as the Executive Secretary of the WPA. James P. Cannon and Caleb Harrison were the leading WPA functionaries in the first few months of the organization's existence, neither of whom showed a particular aptitude for administrative work.

‡- Sum of the district averages is actually 10,359, reflecting a rounding error of 2 members.

Compiled with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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