
Statement of Personal History. †

[circa July 1924]

by John August Miller

An untitled handwritten document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 337, l. 1.

John August Miller

Member of Lettish [Latvian] Branch SP — Boston and Chicago, 1907-1917.

Went to Russia: April 22, 1917.

Returned to US: Jan. 1, 1921.

Member of Russian CP: May 1917 - Nov. 1919.

Requested leave of RCP and leave was granted by CEC of RCP, Sept. or Oct. 1919.

Arrested at Indian boundary: In prison in India for 11 months.

Made statement to Weinstein re arrest.

Made effort [?] to join in 1921 — Lettish [Latvian] Branch.

D— [*illeg.*] 1922— Was admitted to opposition [Central Caucus faction] after split from CP on organization of WP. Remained with opposition until Jan. 1924.

1917 Russia: Organizer of CEC of CP of Crimea.

Jan. 13, 1918: Head of Rev. Com. in Crimea.

April 1918: To Moscow to [seek?] friends.

Return to Moscow May 1918 to Nov. 1919.

June 1919-Nov. 1919... [*balance illegible*].

†- The so-called "J. Miller Case" was taken up by the Organization Committee of the WPA at its August 5, 1924 session, at which Executive Secretary C.E. Ruthenberg outlined the particulars of the case. Miller had worked in Soviet Russia from 1917 to 1919, Ruthenberg said, but "his record of this work had not been definitely established there." Upon his return to the United States, the

Chicago Latvian Branch of the WPA had raised objections against his application for membership, based upon the fact that Miller had not obtained proper transfer documents from the RKP(b) to the WPA. Ruthenberg moved that “In view of the statement made by Comrade Miller of his activities while in Soviet Russia and his complete record of Party work that he be accepted as a member with full rights of membership in the Party.” At the same time, Ruthenberg moved that the WPA “take up with the Russian Communist Party the statement of Comrade Miller in regard to his activities in Soviet Russia with a request for confirmation of Comrade Miller’s statement that in the fall of 1919 he was granted permission to leave Soviet Russia for the United States.” Both of Ruthenberg’s motions were approved unanimously by the Organization Committee, membership of which also included Martin Abern, Fahle Burman, Louis Engdahl, and Bill Foster. [f. 515, op. 1, d. 339, l. 11].

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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