
Letter to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America in New York from the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party in New York, March 25, 1920.

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New York City,
March 25, 1920.

The Central Executive Committee,
Communist Party.

Comrades:

We see nothing in your last communication which brings us nearer to unity. In answer we but repeat:

1. We are willing to join in a convention call upon the basis of your Manifesto and Program because we see no essential difference between yours and that of the Communist Labor Party.

2. If there is a joint call for a convention, then there should be an immediate uniting of working forces, for we desire a convention composed of ONE party and not one composed of two contending factions. No one that has any sincere desire for unity will propose the criminal waste of energy involved in continuing for three months to build two rival systems of underground organizations.

We do not want a convention where two hostile groups caucus against each other to win the steamroller championship. Another split of Communist forces might be the outcome of a convention such as that. We desire to bring about unity now, so that when the convention is held the delegates will not attend as members of the

Communist Party or the Communist Labor Party caucus, but will meet as Communists, determined to organize our common strength against our common foe.

3. This is definite — that the Communist Party's constitutional form of language federations as a basis for the joint call for the convention cannot be acceded to by us. If we understand your position upon this point, it is that you wish us to go into convention with you with the admission that your form of language federation organization is correct and dares us to attack and change it. In other words, you hold the fort and we are invited to make the attack. Your constitutional form of language federations has already broken down and has been eliminated in great part by the new [underground] methods you have been forced to adopt to prosecute Communist work. You are violating your own constitutional form of language federation. Why ask us to accept it as a basis for a convention call when you recognize it as obsolete?

We are not insisting upon our form of non-autonomous language federations as a basis for the convention call. We on the other hand cannot accept your form of federations, as provided for in your obsolete constitution as a basis for the convention call. We want the question of language federations to go before the convention without prejudice. Unless you can do this and confine the convention call to the principles as enunciated in

the Manifesto and Program, then progress towards unity cannot be made.

If you think your last communication needs elucidation, we would be glad to hear from you further or enter into conference.

National Executive Committee,
Communist Labor Party.

A. Wagenknecht,
Executive Secretary.

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