
**Letter to the Central Executive Committee
of the Communist Party of America in New York
from Alfred Wagenknecht, Executive Secretary
of the United Communist Party in New York,
October 21, 1920**

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New York, October 21, 1920.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA.

Comrades:—

The local quorum of the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party has considered the inquiry made by your Executive Secretary [Charles Dirba] under date of October 15, and in reply has the following to say:

1. The decision of the Executive Committee of the Third International, obliging the United Communist Party and the Communist Party of America to unite by a certain date, was received by us in the form of the minutes of the Executive Committee [of the Communist International] about ten days ago, through our regular channels of communication with the Third International.

2. Since that time we have also receive another communication advising that on September 22nd [1920] your representative Andrew [Nicholas Hourwich] appeared before the Executive Committee of the International and attempted to have the decision of the Executive Committee in regard to unity modified in a number of respects. The Executive Committee refused to change its previous decision, except to extend the date by which unity must be completely achieved to January 1st, 1921.

3. One of our representatives who sat in the Congress of the International [2nd: Petrograd and Moscow, July 19-Aug. 7, 1920] has just returned. His report confirms the decision of the Executive Committee of the International, as stated in your communication and in the minutes which we received.

4. In regard to reference to statements regarding unity in our bulletin, the decision of your convention on this question as well as the attitude of your official organ [*The Communist*] (including the ridiculous attacks on our program, which have been so decisively rebuked by the Congress of the International recognizing the United Communist Party as the major party in the United States and granting it a preponderance of the votes for the United States in the Congress on the basis of that very program) would have justified us in reporting to the Executive Committee that your organization declined to take up the question of unity. However, the report in question did not relate to the decision of the Executive Committee as stated above, but to the efforts of Comrade Linde [CI Rep Samuel Agursky] we elected a committee from our Central Executive Committee to discuss the question of unity with a similar committee from your Central Committee, which he stated that he would request you to appoint. He later reported that you had repulsed his efforts to achieve unity and we so informed our membership and the Executive Committee of the International.

We presume that in view of the decision of the Executive Committee of the Third International, you are ready to reconsider the position taken by your convention [2nd: New York, July 13-18, 1920] and expressed in your official organ and to take up the question of uniting your organization with ours immediately. Our position on this question has been persistently that of making every effort to achieve the unity of all communist elements in the United States in one party. Toward that end, we have again appointed a committee of two, X [= ???] and Y [= ???], to meet with a committee of your organization for the purpose of beginning the necessary steps toward achieving unity. Since the matter must be handled expeditiously in order to comply with the decision of the Executive Committee of the International, we suggest a meeting before the end of the week.

Fraternally,

[*Alfred Wagenknecht*],
Executive Secretary,
UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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