
Unity Achieved!

To All Members of the CP and the UCP Now United in the Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International.

[May 1921]

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Comrades:—

The Joint Unity Convention which has just completed its labors marks the beginning of a new epoch in the life of the Communist movement of this country. The period of factional strife, which has torn the movement asunder during the past two years is now at an end. A new era has now begun — the era of UNITY of all Communist elements in ONE Party for the achievement of the proletarian revolution.

In this issue of the Official Bulletin, the complete constitution adopted at the joint unity convention of the United Communist Party and the Communist Party of America is published. Every member is urged to study and apply the provisions contained in it. This constitution represents the effort of the Convention to lay the basis of real and lasting unity between the divided factions of the communist movement in this country. Its provisions are designed to cement together into one unified party the comrades and groups so long separated from each other. Of the many conventions held by both the UCP and the CP, this unity convention will prove to be the most momentous and the most far-reaching in its effect upon the communist movement in the US. Every member of both the former parties is expected to carry into life the letter and the spirit of this document. Upon the rapidity and thoroughness with which this is accomplished depends the realization of the actual liquidation of the organizational forms of both the former parties and the welding of the ruptured parts into one organic whole.

The old, long drawn out, interparty struggle is ended. Much bitterness was engendered during this two-year factional fight, and while it cannot be expected that this acrimony will disappear overnight, it now becomes the supreme duty of every comrade, whatever his or her place in the party, to get together and bend every effort to the immediate task which now confronts us of bringing every unit of both the former factions into the framework of the new, united party — The Communist Party of America.

How this unity was consummated; the story of the convention at which thirty CP delegates met with 30 UCP delegates, and there drew up and pledged themselves to carry out the unification of both factions upon the basis of the Constitution and Program adopted there, will be told in the next issue of *The Communist* — the official organ — which will soon be issued.

After wrestling for two weeks with the problems that confronted them, the sixty delegates, thirty trusted comrades from each party, came to a unanimous agreement on every essential point.

No compromise was needed on either side to reach an agreement on principles. The discussion soon showed that on Program there was practical unanimity of opinion, and the Party Program, which will soon be published in all Official Organs, was adopted without difficulty.

With the constitution it was different. This offered the real problem. Here “deadlocks” occurred on

many points, until both sides were convinced that without concessions from each it would not be possible to achieve that unity of Communist working forces which was so greatly desired by all.

A negotiations committee, consisting of five from each side, worked out a compromise, a happy medium embodying the best points offered by each Party in constitutional provisions. After all night caucus sessions these were adopted first by the CP and UCP delegations separately, and then unanimously by the Joint Unity Convention.

The principal points at issue and the decisions regarding them are as follows:

1. Appointment or election of organizers. The CP proposed to appoint all District, subdistrict, and section organizers, which the UCP stood for the election of the subdistrict and section organizers, appointing only the District organizers. The agreement provides for the appointment of subdistrict organizers and election of section organizers.

2. Composition of District and subdistrict committees. The CP proposed that these should consist of appointed officials only. The UCP proposed that they should be elected by membership convention. The compromise is that each committee should have five members elected by the convention in addition to the appointed District and subdistrict organizers.

3. Filling of vacancies on the CEC. The CP proposed that this should be done by co-optation. The UCP proposed that alternates should be elected by the convention. It was decided to have the convention elect six alternates, three from each side, and to permit the CEC to co-optate when this list was exhausted.

4. Size of the CEC. The CP asked for nine members, so that there should be a majority. The UCP asked for ten, so that neither side could crush the other. The CP proposal was agreed to, but due to deadlock in election it was impossible to carry this out, and a Committee of ten, five from each side, was finally elected.

5. Language Federations. The CP wanted federations which were integral parts of the national organization, with power to collect dues and assess and discipline their members. The UCP wanted the proposition of the American Agency. The form of language organization finally agree upon provides:

a. All groups to consist of members speaking the same language and to be affiliated with language

branches and federations.

b. Federations to meet in annual national conferences to elect National Language Bureaus.

c. These Bureaus to elect editors, appoint organizers, supervise all federation activities.

d. All acts of federations, conferences, and Bureaus to be under strict control and subject to approval by CEC.

e. Federations and Bureaus to have NO authority to discipline membership, but may recommend discipline to regular Party units.

f. All dues and assessments to go through regular Party channels instead of Federation channels. CEC to remit 1/3 of dues to respective Language Bureaus.

g. District language conferences to elect members on District Language Bureaus. The National Bureaus deal with branches through the District Bureaus and through direct connections between Language Bureaus and their branches.

It is hoped that this form of language organization offers a method of supplying the language needs without those features of the federation...against which the membership of the UCP had protested most.

The membership of the old CP Federations will please note that the new method of paying dues takes effect July 1st. During June CP language branch dues should still be paid through the old federation channels. After July 1st, ALL dues and assessments must be paid by the branch organizers to the Section organizers in their localities in order for the branch to be in good standing.

The old UCP membership will note that dues are reduced to sixty cents per month, the change taking effect July 1st. For June every UCP member must still pay dues at the old rate of 75 cents. EVERYONE MUST PAY DUES FOR JUNE. Group captains must collect in full and remit at once, so as to merge 100 percent of the membership into the newly united Party.

6. Official Organs. Hereafter the official organs will be published monthly. There will be no more free distribution to the membership. All must pay for their copies.

There will be issued a Party Bulletin twice a month, every member to receive a copy without charge.

The unity convention adopted a plan for liquidation and amalgamation of the two party organizations, which is published in full in another column.

Special attention must be paid to the following:

a. Until new connections are established securely, all Committees and organizers must remain on the job. Every organizer must turn over all his connections to his successor and work with him until he is firmly established. Every new organizer must make sure he has all connections of his predecessor before letting him go.

b. The membership should not wait for the official amalgamation locally, but should begin to cooperate in their activities at once.

c. Every member and every unit must make sure that connections are properly established in the reorganization process, so as not to be overlooked and left out.

d. Every unit must at once make statement and remit for all literature sold or saleable literature on hand and report to the higher unit. Also an inventory of all equipment, typewriters, desks, etc. that may belong to the Party.

Your Central Executive Committee calls upon members and all party units of both former factions to carry out its decisions promptly and without reser-

vation, with the assurance that all that was best in both former factions will be conserved; that the one will supplement and add to the other; that neither side will or can crush or suppress the other; that the liquidation of the affairs of both the former parties will proceed in the spirit of communist unity, until, at last, all the old factional lines will disappear, and the comrades will be united into one compact, disciplined Communist Party.

From this time on let every member, whether he belonged to the former UCP or to the former CPA, remember that there is now only ONE Communist Party in the US, and that it becomes his or her immediate duty to perfect the unity which was attained at the Joint Unity Convention. Let every member now devote every ounce of energy and enthusiasm to bring to a successful issue the tremendous task that confronts our Party — the triumph of the Proletarian Revolution in America.

**Central Executive Committee
Communist Party of America**

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