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## Letter from C.E. Ruthenberg in Chicago to Vasil Kolarov in Moscow, September 5, 1923.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 201, ll. 191-192.

September 5, 1923.

W. Kolaroff  
Mokhavaia 16  
Moscow, RUSSIA

Dear Comrade:

I am directed by the CEC of our Party to ask permission of the Presidium of the Comintern to hold a convention of the Workers Party during the latter part of December or the early part of January.

Our next annual convention is due about the date specified above. It is very important for us that we hold this convention and do not delay it until after the Fifth Congress [of the Comintern] as provided by the rules of the Comintern.

The reasons that make it necessary for holding the convention at the time specified are as follows:

1 — Our Party has gone through a rapid period of development in the last year. This has made it necessary to adopt policies and enter into struggles for which the Party as a whole was not always sufficiently prepared from an ideological standpoint. This has been particularly true of the Labor Party campaign carried on by our organization. The formation of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party makes it necessary, therefore, to have a thorough discussion of Party policy and to have the support of the whole Party through a convention where there can be such a discussion of the

policy now being pursued by our Party. Only such a convention as we request permission to hold can give such a basis for the Party policies and embraces the whole Party in support of the policy.

2— The present CEC of our Party came into existence as a result of the combination of the Executive Committee of the underground Communist Party and the Workers Party in accordance with instructions from the Comintern. It consists of 29 members. Owing to the large membership in the Executive Committee, it has not always been possible to hold meetings of the entire committee and this naturally tends to produce a conflict between those members of the committee who participate actively in formulating Party policies and those who do not so participate. It is essential that the Party elect a new and smaller Executive Committee, all of the members of which can participate actively and directly in the work of our organization. For this purpose it is also necessary to hold the convention.

We request that permission to hold the convention be cabled to us as soon as this matter is acted upon so that we can make the necessary preparations.†

Fraternally yours,

C.E. Ruthenberg,  
Executive Secretary.

R:D

†- The 3rd National Convention of the Workers Party of America was held in Chicago from Dec. 30, 1923 to Jan. 2, 1924.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*  
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