
Dove of Peace Badly Treated by Communists:

Two Factions Throw Charges of Treason at Each Other; Folks at Home Worried.

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(Special to *The Call*)

CHICAGO, Sept. 4 [1919].— The dove of peace fluttering between the Communist Party at Smolny Institute and the Communist Labor Party at the IWW Hall on Throop Street is meeting with adverse winds. In answer to the Communist Party ultimatum that if the others want to amalgamate with them they will have to come as individuals and pass the test of the Credentials Committee of the Communist Party, the crowd at the IWW Hall has sent a counterproposal.

The statement rehearses recent history of the Left Wing movement and demands for the Communist Labor Party of America equal footing with the Communist Party. Each convention declares that the other consists of inharmonious elements damned by both as centrist.

Each Party Accuses Other.

Each accuses the other of disloyalty to communism. The CLP statement speaks of their rivals as "volatile and bolters" and offers as proof of the mixed character of the Communist Party the fact that the Michigan political actionists are included.

The proposition is then made that the conference of the two bodies constitute a joint Credentials Committee, before which the roster of the two conventions is to be examined. All "inharmonious elements" are then to be weeded out by this committee and the two conventions are to be formed into a single party.

When the CLP statement, full of counter-accusations, was read at the Communist Party convention

yesterday morning there was considerable laughter. But the matter was taken up for caucus and careful consideration, for both sides realize that negotiations have reached a critical phase.

What helped the leaders in the Communist Party convention to realize the gravity of their problem was a sheaf of telegrams from Left Wing branches and Communist organizations, chiefly in New York, to the effect that the membership will not tolerate failure to get the two Communist groups united.

The immediate cause of these telegrams was a partial misunderstanding of a report of the situation which has appeared in *The Call*. This report stated that, whatever were the chances for unity, it was certain that men like John Reed, Ludwig Lore, Louis B. Boudin, and others of the Communist Labor Party would not be admitted to the Communist Party.

New York Communists took this to mean that the Communist Party was waging a personal fight on these men and that only personalities kept the two conventions from merging. The interpretation is hardly correct, for owing to the stiff opposition which these men put up to the formation of the Communist Party before the Emergency Convention [of the SPA], they have become objectionable to most of the Communist Party leaders.

But more potent than mere personality in keeping this group and their followers out of the Communist Party is their strenuous objection to the domination of the Russian Federations. That another of the shining lights of the CLP outfit, William Bross Lloyd, millionaire and part owner of the *Chicago Tribune*, will not be admitted to the Communist Party is inevitable, according to a clause in the latter's constitution adopted

yesterday. It is to the effect that no one who derives the whole of his or her income from rent, profit, or interest is eligible for membership. This was adopted by a vote of 74 to 28.

Upon the adoption of this plank, Rose Pastor Stokes of New York arose and declared that, if necessary, she would go to work for a living, even if she had to work 10 or 12 hours a day. A proposition that lawyers and other professionals also be excluded was voted down.

Because the important committees have not completed their reports, the convention of the Communist Party adjourned for the day immediately upon receiving the answer from the Communist Labor Party. Several of the reports were adopted by unanimous votes. There is to be a monthly published by the party, *The Communist International*, and a weekly, *The Communist*.

The domination of the Russians † and the share of power allowed by them to the English-speaking element can be partly gauged from the membership of some of the most important committees as follows.

Committee on Manifesto and Program: A. Stoklitsky, N.I. Hourwich, Daniel Elbaum, A. Biegolman, Maximilian Cohen, Dennis E. Batt, Louis C. Fraina, Jay Lovestone, and H.M Wicks. While this committee is not overwhelmingly Russian, the manifesto can have been practically written since the first call for the Communist Party convention by the Russians and the Michigan delegates.

Committee on Constitution and Organization: O. Tyverovsky [Russian Federation]; J.V. Stilson of the Lithuanian Federation; A. Forsinger and H. Hiltzik of the Jewish [Yiddish-language] Left Wing Federation, but voting along with the Russians; G. Ashkenazi of

the Russian Federation; I.E. Ferguson, and C.E. Ruthenberg.

Committee on Resolutions: E. Kopnagel, M.L. Olgin, and M. Lunin of the Russian Federations; Joseph Brodsky and Rose Pastor Stokes, representing the Left Wing element; and John Keracher and A. Renner of the Michigan element, who are isolated from agreement with the others on disagreements in emphasis and almost principles.

Virtually the seat of power in the Communist Party will be New York. The following section of the Communist Party convention roster shows the number claimed by the New York delegations:

1.— Russian revolutionary organizations of New York, 5,000. Delegates: G. Ashkenazi, A. Bittelman, H. Hiltzik, N.I. Hourwich, S. Miller, J.J. Kravsevich, M. Lunin, E. Missin, O. Tyverovsky.

2.— Local Greater New York, 3,000. Louis C. Fraina, Rose Pastor Stokes, Maximilian Cohen, Joseph Brodsky, Carl Brodsky, Fannie Horowitz.

3.— Bronx, 2,000. Jay Lovestone, Louis Abaum; E. Rubin, alternate.

4.— Left Wing, Local Kings, 1,500. Charles Brower, Samuel Nessin, P. Sparer.

5.— Local Kings County, Communist Party. 2,400. Edward Lindgren, Morris Zucker. Both of these have since bolted the CP convention and are with the CLP.

6.— Local Queens County, 600. Maurice L. Paul.

7.— Ukrainian Branch of New York, 403. Paul Ladan.

Delegates at both the Socialist Party and the Communist Labor Party conventions coming from New York declare these numbers are grossly inflated.

†- The writer inaccurately lumps members of a number of language groups, including Poles, Lithuanians, Yiddish-speaking Russian Jews, as "Russians." The majority caucus at the CPA delegation was neither a monolithic Russian-language group, nor were a great many of the Russian-speakers among them ethnically Russian, but rather Russian-speaking Jews. In reality, the CPA convention should be more properly thought of as having been effectively controlled by a coalition of language federationists.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

Spelling of delegate names standardized and errors corrected silently.

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