
New Jersey Party News

[events of Nov. 1-2, 1919]

by Walter Gabriel

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The New Jersey State Organization of the Communist Party of America held its first convention on November 1st and 2nd in Newark, with 62 delegates present, representing 41 branches with a total membership of 1,678 in the state. (Approximately 400 members in 12 branches affiliated with the Communist Party were unrepresented at the convention, due to various technical reasons.)

Report of the Organization, Press, and Literature Committee.

(1) An organization plan to form 9 locals of the Party in the state (this was referred to the Central Executive Committee of the Party for sanction); (2) State office in Newark; (3) Paid Secretary; (4) A special field organizer; (5) To arrange for lecture tours; (6) The salary of the paid officials not to exceed that of the national scale; (7) The State Office to be the central bureau for the Party literature; (8) The State Committee to issue leaflets, in any language, on the burning questions of the day; (9) The branches are urged to stress literature distribution at the present time; (10) Language Federations requested to pay into the State Treasury the per capital which accumulated in these Federations during their suspension from the Socialist Party up to September 1st [1919].

The State Constitution adopted, concurred with the National Constitution of the Party and embodied provisions for a centralized State Organization; annual State Conventions; a State Committee of 15 to meet once a month; and an Executive Committee of 5 to meet once a week.

Walter Gabriel, of Newark, was elected State Secretary, and Louis Brandt, also of Newark, was elected Organizer. The State Committee was elected by the Convention.

Resolutions were adopted as follows: (1 & 2) Greetings to the Third International and the Soviet government in Russia; (3) Acceptance of the Manifesto, Program, and Constitution of the Communist Party; (4) A "call" to the American working class to effect the release of political prisoners and to break the blockade of Soviet Russia; (5) Pledging the State Organization to initiate the work of forming "factory-shop committees," these to function under the control of the City Central Committees and to be composed of Communist Party members only; (6) Calling upon the Communist Party to use the industrial struggles which are now tearing at the vitals of the capitalist order, for purely communist purposes; (7) A resolution endorsing the industrial union as the *only* organization that will effect the emancipation of the working class was rejected, with only the maker of the resolution voting for it; (8) That Communist Party members shall agitate in their industrial organization, with the sole aim of gathering the entire working class around the impending struggle for the Proletarian Dictatorship.

Fraternally submitted,

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Edited by Tim Davenport.

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