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# Minutes of the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party of America, July 1-2, 1920.

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July 1, 1920.

Consideration of districts continued for necessary action.

## MINUTES OF THE CEC.

Present: Caxton [Isaac Ferguson], Simon [???], Delion [Louis Hendin], Damon [C.E. Ruthenberg], Klein [Ludwig Katterfeld], Mayer [Alfred Wagenknecht], Brown [Max Bedacht], Dawson [Jim Cannon].

Brown [Bedacht] elected chairman for the day.

**Motion carried:** That the first order of business be a review of the party districts.

(Each district was considered in the light of reports at hand. The activity of the District Organizers; progress made in amalgamation [of CLP with the former Ruthenberg-CPA] membership of the districts; activities of district affiliations were all discussed by the committee at length).

Letter from Raphael [Alexander Bittelman] of the former Jewish federation read.†

**Motion carried:** That he be wired to appear before the CEC providing he can arrive by Friday [July 2] afternoon.

**Motion carried:** That 5,000 copies of the program and constitution be printed in pamphlet form in the South Slavic [Croatian] language.

Appointment of Sedoy [???] as organizer for District 1 [Boston] cancelled, it being understood that Frank [Latvian Federationist] accepts the position of District Organizer permanently.

**Motion carried:** That National Organizer Fisher [Leonid Belsky] be assigned to work next in District 4 [Pittsburgh].

**Motion carried:** That Dubner's [Abram Jakira's] arrangement to have Russian official organ published in New York until the Russian conference be approved.

**Motion carried:** That the next order of business by the resignation of National Organizer Fisher [Belsky].

**Motion carried:** That CEC consider in executive session the rumors against Fisher [Belsky] and that the committee try to reach a decision in the matter.

**Motion carried:** That Fisher [Belsky] be permitted to remain in attendance at the executive session.

Rumors circulated about Fisher [Belsky] in Dis-

†- The 4th National Convention of the Jewish Socialist Federation, held in Boston from May 29-June 1, 1919, split into Left and Right wings. The Left Wing minority departing the organization established themselves as the "Jewish Left Wing Federation of the Socialist Party" and began issuing their own official organ in the Yiddish language called *Der Kampf* [The Struggle] on June 27. The breakaway group held their own "First Convention" in Philadelphia from October 9-12, 1919, at which the group voted unanimously to affiliate with the Communist Party of America and to adopt that organization's program in its entirety. Alexander Bittelman was on the 8 member Central Executive Committee that was elected by this founding convention of the "Jewish Communist Federation."

trict 7 [Chicago] as presented by a number of Chicago members read by Delion [Hendin].

**Motion carried:** That upon request of Fisher [Belsky] a committee of 3 be elected by the CEC to investigate these rumors.

Committee: Mulheim [???], Silent [???], Bark [???]; Alternates: Feldmark [???], Zaloja [???].

**Motion carried:** That this committee be informed of this appointment by Caxton [Ferguson] and Delion [Hendin] of the CEC and that it meet next Wednesday [July 7, 1920] with these representatives of the CEC to formulate the results of their investigation for presentation to the CEC.

**Motion carried:** To adjourn at 8:30 pm.

**Motion carried:** That District 2 [New York] take charge of organization work in Buffalo, Erie, and Rochester for the present, and that organizer in District 4 [Pittsburgh] devote his time to Pittsburgh without the assistance of a National Organizer for the present.

**Motion carried:** That James Wood [???] be appointed National Organizer temporarily and that he be assigned for the time to District 5 [Cleveland].

Wendell [???] appointed temporary National Organizer to visit Districts 9 [Denver], 10 [San Francisco], 11 [Portland/Seattle].

**Motion carried:** To answer wire from Raphael [Bittelman] that he shall appear before the CEC Saturday morning [July 3].

Agreed that consideration of activities of language groups be next in order.

### **German.**

**[Motion carried:]** That Simon [???], District Organizer in District 2 [New York] go into the field as German and Hungarian organizer and that Dubner [Jakira] act as District Organizer in D2 for a time.

### **Russian.**

**Motion carried:** That Antoniuk [???] be sent to Boston to supplement Dubner [Jakira].

**Motion carried:** That a representative of the CEC be sent to the Russian Conference. Brown [Berdacht] elected, with Damon [Ruthenberg] and Mayer [Wagenknecht] as alternates.

### **Jewish [Yiddish].**

**Motion carried:** That besides acting as organizer for Jewish groups, Delion [Hendin] also do organization work among those groups whose language he speaks.

**Motion carried:** That Simons [???] be the representative of the CEC at the Jewish conference.

### **Polish.**

Await return of organizer for report.

### **South Slavic.**

**Motion carried:** That Mayer [Wagenknecht] act as representative to the South Slavic conference.

**Motion carried:** That expenses of delegates to this conference be advanced by the Executive Secretary [Wagenknecht] and that South Slavic groups sell organization stamps of the party to reimburse the party treasury.

**Motion carried:** That a 50 cent defense stamp be printed at once.

### **July 2, Morning Session.**

Klein [Katterfeld] elected chairman for the day.

Continuance of consideration of activities of language groups.

**Estonian.**

**Motion carried:** That members in charge of Estonian paper continue its publication and that at as early date as possible a CEC representative be sent to them for a conference.

**Motion carried:** That Simons [??] act as such representative.

**Motion carried:** That only one paper be published for Estonian groups, that Palmer [William Reynolds] act as editor and organizer for these groups, subject to the decision of the national conference the Estonian groups may hold; that the Executive Committee of the former Estonian Federation turn all assets over to the CEC of the party.

**Motion carried:** To instruct representative of the CEC to the Estonian members that unless good reasons are presented for the continuance of their legal paper, that it is the sense of the CEC that only an underground paper be published.

**Finnish.**

**Motion carried:** That the Executive Secretary [Wagenknecht] secure the services of Tiala [??] as Finnish Editor-Organizer; that if he is not available, Ranta [??] be engaged.

**Motion carried:** That our policy in regard to the Finnish Federation shall be the following:

1. That we establish a Finnish paper which, together with needed literature of other kinds, be published as soon as possible.

2. That we press the work of organizing party Finnish groups aggressively.

3. That a Finnish Editor-Organizer be employed immediately.

4. That we welcome the aid of all Finnish communists in the Finnish Federation to assist in educating in communism the branches of this federation.

**Motion carried:** That the program and constitution, as well as an appeal, be published in the Italian, Swedish, Hungarian, Spanish, and Lettish [Latvian] languages.

**Motion carried:** That P [??] visit Kansas mining field for Italian organization work.

**Motion carried:** That payment for organization stamps sold by language groups to pay the expenses of the national conference of these...

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*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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