
Report on *The Liberator* to the Central Executive Committee of the unified Communist Party of America

[circa June 1921]¹

by Alfred Wagenknecht

Copy in Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 62, l. 8.

REPORT ON L [*LIBERATOR*] BY DUFFY [WAGENKNECHT]

When interviewing the editor of the L [*Liberator*] [Max Eastman] the other day I inquired into the present attitude of the L [*Liberator*] management to the party.

Committees of the UCP have had several conference with the L [*Liberator*] people at which the L [*Liberator*] people have expressed a disposition to turn the L [*Liberator*] over to the party. This disposition was especially manifest when the financial condition of L [*Liberator*] was precarious.

From what I can gain from the editor in this last interview, the decision is about to be made as to whether the L [*Liberator*] shall become a party publication or an artistic-poetic magazine, similar to *The Masses*, remaining in the control of artists who desire independent expression.

¹ *The Liberator* regained its 2nd Class mailing privileges in the second half of May 1921, which is mentioned by Wagenknecht as newsworthy, providing a rough date for the document. Unification of the CLP and CPA took place at the Joint Unity Convention held near Woodstock, New York, May 15-28, 1921. Wagenknecht was ultimately assigned managerial control over the Press Department of the unified CPA.

The editor ME [Max Eastman] seems inclined toward an independent magazine. However, he is at present in an “I-don’t-care” state of mind, due mainly to the fact that he is tired of his position on the magazine and is busy producing a book.

Also, a controversy is on among the editors, which revolves around ME [Max Eastman] and his failure to give attention to his work and the L [*Liberator*].

Under these circumstances this may be the opportune time to take over the L [*Liberator*]. The E [Eastmans, Max and Crystal] hold a major portion of the stock.

This magazine has again secured its second class mailing privileges. It enjoys a national reputation and is an institution. Suggest a committee be appointed to confer with ME [Max Eastman] in the name of the united party.

Duffy [Alfred Wagenknecht]

There are two possibilities: 1) Full control and ownership. 2) Editorial control, complete.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

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