
Circular Letter to Districts and Federations of the Central Caucus from John Ballam, Secretary, Nov. 13, 1921

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 60, l. 9.

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Office of Central Caucus to Districts and Federations.

Comrades:—

Statement and appeal of 3 CEC members [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam] sent to all districts. Federations translated and will send through their channels. Distribute systematically by organized methods. See that at least one copy gets into every group not only of our side but other side too. Time has come for us to take offensive by open opposition to liquidators.

Actions of CEC.

Meeting postponed twice without reason. Guthrie [=??] resigns as editor of paper 23 [=??]. Marshall [Max Bedacht] made editor of *Communist* and Bulletin. Communist reduced to 16 pages. Henry [George Ashkenuzi] removed as Secretary Defense Committee District 1 [Boston] because “opposed to policies of CEC and office used for meeting place of “opposition.” THIS WEEK ALL FEDERATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO “RAISE THEIR BRANCHES INTO LPP IN SYSTEMATIC MANNER, LANGUAGE BY LANGUAGE.

Organization Committee (of CEC) recommends that *Novyi Mir* be discontinued and that Saturday supplement to Russian paper issued instead and party matter of Russian Federation be sent out in bulletins. All DOs instructed to stop Ukrainian *Communist* be-

cause of article on party bulletins, policies. Lettish [Latvian], Ukrainian, and Polish Federations to be investigated because they did not translate CEC resolution against “Statement No. 1” and CEC’s “Make It a Party of Action.”

Morris [J. Wilenkin] prefers charges against Moore [John Ballam] for advising English Branch Dist. 2 [New York] not to permit itself to be raised into LPP. Motion by Dobin [Charles Dirba] to hold party convention by January 15 [1922] amended by Cook [Jim Cannon] to refer question of convention to all DEC’s [District Executive Committees]. Amendment by Henry [Ashkenuzi] to refer question to all groups including those suspended or expelled. ALL LOST.

Appeal to CI not sent by CEC — excuse: Political Committee (of CEC) preparing answer. Motion to censure party Secretary [Will Weinstone] for not sending appeal was lost. Motion carried to have Organization Committee (of CEC) find party work for Henry [Ashkenuzi], Moore [Ballam] and if no party work can be found Moore [Ballam] and Henry [Ashkenuzi] to be taken off party payroll.

Information from District Caucuses.

Dist. 1 [Boston]: 7 delegates to Defense Committee suspended from party for voting to retain Henry [Ashkenuzi] as Secretary. Henry [Ashkenuzi] was unconstitutionally removed by CEC caucus and refused to obey and sent resolution denouncing CEC caucus. Dobin [Dirba] spoke at several meetings in Boston and Providence. Two-thirds of Dist. 1 [Boston] with us. District 1 caucus supported decision of Central

Caucus to more effectively organize our forces. <words illegible> forces in Dist. 1.

Dist. 2 [New York]: Resolution adopted in SD1 [New York City] calling for expulsion of all individuals and units opposing policies of CEC and of 3 members of CEC who refuse to sign resolution against "Statement No. 1" [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam]. Jewish Branches raised [left the underground] in Sections 4, 5, 7. Jewish Branches in Sections 2 and 6 refused to be raised. Motion passed by SDC [Sub District Committee] to at once proceed with bringing Jewish Branches above ground. SDO ["Marxon" =???] threatens expulsion of all groups which refuse to be raised. SD2 [Newark, NJ] 90% with us. Meeting of all branch organizers voted unanimously to support policy [of the] Central Caucus. Representative sent to District 3 [Philadelphia] to organize there.

Dist. 4 [Cleveland]: Long resolution by German Branch discussing crushing policies of CEC in answer to demand that they take back resolutions passed by them or be suspended. DO [Abram Jakira] forged signatures of Russian branch organizer to get possession of property of branch. Lett [Latvian], Ukrainian, Russian, and Lithuanian branches suspended. DO [Jakira] says all these members not suspended as he will reorganize them. District Caucus thinks it useless to try to keep within constitution and demands Central Caucus carry on open fight.

Dist. 5 [Chicago]: Well organized and sends in regular reports. Letts [Latvians] donated \$25 to CC [Central Caucus]. All resolutions returned to branches by DEC. Milwaukee SD all with us — about 140 members will give one day's pay if CEC will [call] convention; reinstate 19 Russian comrades; put back elected Lithuanian Bureau; stop raising [moving overground] branches in LPP and until CEC does all this not one cent. At meeting of Jewish District Bureau Dist. 5 [Chicago], letter was read from CEC asking DO [Charles Krumbein] to organize forces loyal to CEC into their own caucus in order "to shock the opposition."

Dist. 6 [Detroit]: Well organized and district 90%

with us. Decided to organize a conference of workers organizations in D. [Detroit].

No report or letters from Dist. 10 [Buffalo], Dist. 11 [Pittsburgh], Dist. 7 [St. Louis], Dist. 12 [Minneapolis].

Reports from Federation Leaders to Central Caucus.

Jewish: Branches threatened with expulsion who refuse to be raised [moved overground]. About 125 Jewish Federationists will not submit to raise branches.

Lett [Latvian]: No report.

Lithuanian: All branches being visited. Riley [Joseph Stilson] threatens to expel all branches which refuse to join LPP. In Pennsylvania all branches with us. Philadelphia 50/50. Detroit solid. [Connecticut?] with us. Lithuanian statement sent out to members. Some members leaving party. Have majority on EC of Needle Trades Union.

Polish: In D6 [Detroit], largest by 60 members, stopped paying dues to party. Branch in D5 [Chicago] waiting for definite action by CC [Central Caucus].

Other Federations: Nothing new.

Decisions of Central Caucus.

Discussed sending representative to R. [Russia], decided to send now.

Decided to draw up statement on Workers Council.

Decided to send representatives of Central Caucus to all Districts for purpose of organizing our forces — meetings to be of our comrades only.

We must again insist upon getting complete and REGULAR reports from all District Caucus leaders.

Yours for the CPA,

X.S. [John Ballam],
Secretary CC.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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