
Foreign Treasury Exchange, January 4, 1922

[A Complete Record of Actually Received Comintern Subsidies
by the American Communist Movement, 1919-1921]†

by Will Weinstone

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 100, l. 1.

Jan. 4, 1922.

FOREIGN TREASURY EXCHANGE

Dear Coms:

In reply to your communication asking for information regarding the financial transactions, we state the following: Your amounts, dates, and names are correct.

- 1— S. Stamm, address as you have it, received \$25,000 Jan. 1920, for the CPA.
- 2— E. Puhpolo, address as you have it, received \$25,000 Oct. 1920, for UCP.
- 3— J.H., address as you have it, received \$30,000 for AA [American Agency].‡

Have sent copy of this letter to Riga, Reval, and Berlin.

Fraternally yours,

G. Lewis [Will Weinstone],
Execsec. CPA.

†- This is a big one, a Moby Dick of archival documents — a receipt for Comintern funds received by the Executive Secretary of the unified CPA, with no mincing around or obfuscation. These numbers, it should be noted, match the internal evidence of CPA and UCP budget figures presented to the May 1921 Woodstock Unity Convention and represent the sort of significant-yet-comparatively-modest funding that would have allowed the American Communist movement the sort of healthy activity it demonstrated in 1920-21 before running out of funds and nearly going bankrupt in 1922.

Please print this page out on acid free paper and insert it between pages 24 and 25 in your copy of Klehr, Haynes, and Firsov's *The Secret World of American Communism* (1995), which makes preposterous claims about CI funding of the early American parties based upon inaccurate currency information and the mistaken belief that John Reed and Kristap Beika ("John Anderson") ever made it to America with the gemstones and valuta they were carrying — which they certainly did not, as has been previously demonstrated.

‡- The American Agency (Sen Katayama, Charley Janson ["Charles Scott"], Louis Fraina) conducted its activity in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. At the time of its liquidation in early 1922, the order was given for it to turn over its remaining funds to the impoverished CPA. Instead, Louis Fraina absconded with the remaining cash, amidst much acrimony. Scholars should thus bear in mind that the total 1919-21 subsidy to the American movement proper was not the sum of these three figures, but rather \$25,000 + \$25,000 + those American Agency funds spent in the United States, with the unspent balance pilfered by Fraina.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.