
From Recent Mails: Report to ECCI No. 2, January 18, 1922.

by L.E. Katterfeld

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, ll. 112-113.

Report 2. (Confidential)

Jan. 18, 1922.

Delegate from America.

James Marshall [Max Bedacht] has arrived from America for some special work in connection with the Famine Relief, and also on Party business. He should be given an opportunity to report at the next meeting of the Executive. He will be the second American representative at the February Conference of the Comintern Executive [1st Enlarged Plenum, Feb. 21-March 4, 1922].

Ballister [Robert Minor].

Ballister [Robert Minor] has arrived safely in New York, according to telegram received.

Workers Party.

Convention Christmas week received good publicity in New York dailies, and seems to be well launched. It placed full power in hands of an Executive Committee of 17, of whom 12 are Party members of our underground organization. No convention of the Communist Party of America was held prior to the Public convention, but the delegates who were Party members held a three day caucus, thus serving the same purpose. Our legal Party starts with 25,000 members represented at this convention.

Party Controversy.

The decision of the Executive Committee of the CP of America regarding organization of legal Party has caused about 2,000 members to leave the Party. Ballister's [Minor's] arrival in America with the theses adopted by the EC of the CI will help to remedy the situation. It is not necessary to take any new steps here.

Nuorteva.

The wildest rumors are afloat in America regarding the Nuorteva case, and are being capitalized by the yellow Socialists, especially their Finnish organ. An official inquiry from our Finnish Federation asks for definite information. It will be a great help to our movement in America if this can be given.

Famine Relief.

The following cable has been received from the Friends of Soviet Russia, our relief organization:

"We ask all relief news, instructions, cables from Red Cross or Russian Famine Relief Committee be duplicated to us. We must have fuller cooperation. Ship famine motion pictures at once. Have collected \$325,000, and \$200,000 worth of clothes and materials to date." (Jan 10th)..."

The matter of more direct connections and fuller cooperation has been taken up with Comrades Kamenev and Aiduk, and is being arranged satisfactorily. There had been some difficulty with Dubrowski, who had a mandate from the Russian Red Cross. No man-

dates should be given to any individuals for work in America (aside from regular Soviet government affairs), without consultation with the Party representative. The general policy should always be to send the mandates to the Party Executive, and let it pick the people and organize the machinery for carrying them out.

In addition to the half million raised by the Friends of Soviet Russia, large funds have been raised by Labor organizations, of which I have no exact information. These are now being concentrated in a "Federated Committee," which was also initiated by our people, and in which [Sidney] Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers takes part.

IWW.

The General Executive Board of the IWW, acting upon report of George Williams, who attended the RTU Congress here, has rejected affiliation with the Red Trade Union International because 1. The Red Trade union Congress condemned the IWW. 2. The RTU is run by politicians who are Communists in disguise. 3. This clique wants to liquidate all labor organizations that will not bow to their authority. 4. They want specifically to liquidate the IWW. 5. The RTU Congress was not representative, but padded to assure Communist control. 6. The IWW could not possibly cooperate with the Communist Party of America.

Williams' report venomously attacks not only the RTUI and the Comintern, but also the Soviet, which is run by the "High Priests of Communism." It is being printed in full in *Industrial Solidarity* (current issues).

Needless to say that this is not the unanimous opinion of IWW membership. Perhaps not even a majority. A letter has already been received by IWW members here from the editor of the Italian IWW paper in Chicago, utterly repudiating the official position. Members of IWW here in Moscow have sent a cable repudiating Williams' report and asking the membership to suspend judgement until they receive the truth. A communication giving the facts is now being drawn up by them.

Carr [Katterfeld] — America.

[Workers Party of Canada].

The Communist Party of Canada is now taking the necessary step to launch a legal Party similar to the one just founded in the United States. A Conference of about 50 representatives of various labor organizations, mostly communist, met in December and made all preliminary plans for the holding of a public Convention beginning February 12th. Comrade Scott [Karlis Janson], who used to serve on the American Agency, is now in Canada guiding this work.

Carr [Katterfeld] — Canada.

Comintern Bldg. Room 41
Lux Room 300.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.
The content of this document is reproduced with permission of the Reference Center for Marxist Studies (RCMS), New York, NY.
For additional reprint information, please contact RCMS.