
Report No. 12 to Jay Lovestone et al. in New York from Ludwig Katterfeld in Moscow, March 19, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, ll. 25-26.

No. 12

March 19th, 1922.

Dear Friends,

Yours of February 26th [1922] together with several envelopes containing special announcements arrived today. All mail seems to be coming through all right now through all four cities for which you have addresses. Please keep on sending full information in regard to every line of our business, even though we shall not be hear to receive it personally, as there will be someone in charge of our interests, and it is essential that the people here be kept informed.†

Johnny [John Ballam] has been here a week now, he was heard for about 6 hours by a Small Committee [subcommittee of ECCI], which brought in a report last night to the full Board of Directors [ECCI], 100 percent in our favor. Their report approves the points that I sent you last week with the exception that the minority is allowed two months' time to put themselves in good standing, instead of only one month from the time that you send out the official communication announcing the decision. This will not go forward form here for two or three days yet, for the Small Committee was instructed to draw up a suitable letter to go with the decision. Shall of course see to it that this gets into the mail as quickly as possible, in all

the languages concerned in this matter.‡

The decision is so strong in our favor that I believe it will be good tactics for you to adopt a very conciliatory tone in the letter that you send out with this decision, in which you invite all the membership that is outside to come back in, assure them that they will be received without prejudice as quick as they submit to the party decisions and do the work instructed by the CEC. From the defiant tone adopted here by Johnny [Ballam] I conclude that they will attempt to buck the inevitable, and that it is your task, with cool heads, to win access to their membership, convey the truth to them, and bring them into our house.

The Brown [Bedacht] shipment goes forward on the same train with this letter. The Ukrainian, about which I wrote you last week, will follow about a week later. I am sure this will be a very valuable shipment, and urge you to make all possible preparations to get the fullest use of it the minute it arrives.§

Since the decision of the Board of Directors [ECCI] provides for a two months period before the elections for our General Stockholders' Meeting [party convention] can begin (so as to give the returning shareholders [Central Caucus supporters] a chance to vote in their communities), it means that the General Stockholders' Meeting [convention] cannot take place until about (q) ***** ..Δ I understand that some of our shareholders [party members] are trying to rush this matter of Stockholders' Meeting [convention], so

†- Katterfeld was to travel to attend the conference of the Executive Committees of the three Internationals, which was held at the Reichstag building in Berlin from April 2-5, 1922.

‡- The Central Caucus faction was centered in five of the six federations of the old CPA: Latvian ("Lettish"), Lithuanian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Polish. It seems that the Latvian federationists were the most uncompromising supporters of the split.

§- It is believed that the reference here is to a literature shipment.

Δ- Original has "fractions code": (date) 9 letters: 29/6 3/4 2/6 16/1 5/6 5/7 5/4 4/1 7/1. While the only month having a name with 9 letters is September, terminal letter 7/1 is believed to be a T, so the 9 characters could read "JULY FIRST" or some such. The 2nd Convention of the unified CPA was actually held Aug. 17-22, 1922 at Bridgman, MI. The q in parentheses indicates that "Code Q" was being used.

it would be well to inform them that this is an instruction of the Board [ECCI]. Personally I think it is a very good instruction as with this argument that they can still participate in the election of delegates, if they return at once, I am sure that the majority of the old shareholders [Central Caucus faction] can be won back.

The financial question will be settled within the next few days. I am sure that you will be relieved, the delay is no fault of ours. The returning salesman [Bedacht] will explain the reasons personally. You will have read in the papers about the proposed conference between our firm [the Comintern] and our principal competitors [2nd International, Vienna Union] to unite if possible on a common, worldwide advertising campaign for the purpose of boosting our trade in general. The Board of Directors [ECCI] elected ten representatives to meet with ten of the Vienna house [the Vienna Union, so-called "2-and-1/2 International"] and ten from the other competitor in Berlin [2nd International] to confer regarding the possibilities and, if able to reach an agreement, then to make the preliminary arrangements. I was elected as one of our ten, and have to leave here [for Berlin] within a week. This is a tremendous opportunity and you can imagine with what enthusiasm I go to help with this work. Of course it means that temporarily we shall be without personal representation here, but I shall arrange to have all our interests properly taken care of before I leave. Furthermore, I shall receive the mail at that relay point so that I will in reality be in much closer touch with you than I am at present.

If the General Conference [Conference of the three Internationals] is agreed upon, it will probably be called on very short notice, so as to occur simultaneously with the affair at Genoa [Genoa Conference]. This is to urge you to send full representation for both our First House [CPA] and the Public Store [WPA],

at least three for each. These should supply themselves at once with passports and everything necessary.

From this General Conference I intend to return to you and straighten out that business of mine in the Middle West [family matters]. Please inform our attorney [??] that he can expect me sure about that time. I shall get the necessary vacation [leave] from here. One of those that is sent to the General Conference should be instructed to come here after the Conference and to remain until I can return again in the summer.

The YCI Conference [3rd Bureau Session of the YCI, March 15-25, 1922] has just begun, I shall attend enough of its meetings to present our special problems and make reports to you.

Please inform our Russian customers that the salesman [party member] of whom you sent us two photographs is reliable. We have looked up his references and find them OK.

Glad to see that you got started with the "T" [Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia] and hope that it will have as great a success as the "B" [Friends of Soviet Russia]. From now on, because of the present financial arrangements, I think it will be necessary to leave this work [FSR relief work] more in the hands of friends and have our salesmen [paid party workers] devote their time more exclusively to the sale of our old brands [work in the CPA and WPA].

Have noted with interest the proposition for a graduated income tax [income-based dues surcharges]. It will require a process of education before our customers [party members] will really insist on this, but in the end, I feel sure that it will work out all right.

Keep cheerful,

J. Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld].

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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