
Minutes of the Communist Party Convention, Saturday, May 20, 1944.†

Published in *The Path to Peace, Progress and Prosperity: Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the Communist Political Association, New York, May 20-22, 1944.* (NY: CPA, 1944), pg. 140.

THE CONVENTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by the National Chairman, William Z. Foster, with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the delegates.

Chairman Foster appointed the following:

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Rose Gaulden, NY, Chairman; Charles Krumbein, NY, Secretary; Mike Russo, Connecticut; E. Levin, Louisiana; R. Ferguson, Illinois.

Charles Krumbein, Secretary of the Credentials Committee was called upon to make a preliminary report. Krumbein reported that credentials had been received for 220 regular and 173 alternate delegates, representing 44 states. The committee found the credentials in good order and presented a motion to seat all delegates.

Motion to accept Credentials Committee report. Carried.

CHAIRMAN FOSTER, declaring the Convention ready to proceed with its business, made the following remarks:

Our party has been in existence 25 years and during these 25 years, among the most stormy in the history of the American people, our party has found itself in the front ranks of every fight for freedom and every fight for the improvement of the people's conditions. During the course of those 25 years we have found it necessary to make many

changes in our organization in order to enable our party most effectively to conduct this struggle.

At our last Plenum, as you all remember, certain very important changes were proposed by our Secretary, Comrade Browder. Since then these changes have been widely discussed in our party until I think it can be said that the party is now unanimously of the opinion that such changes must be made.

The National Committee therefore recommends that we take up this question of these changes as our first order of business at this convention, unless there is objection.

Is there any objection to this procedure? (*No objection.*)

Hearing none, we will so proceed. I will recognize Comrade Browder.

EARL BROWDER: On January 11 the National Committee of the Communist Party, in the interests of national unity and to enable the Communists to function most effectively in the changed political conditions and to make still greater contributions toward winning the war and securing a durable peace, recommended that the American Communists should renounce the aim of partisan advancement and the party form of organization. This proposal has been unanimously endorsed by all the State and District Conventions which elected delegates to this national convention.

†- Prior to the Constitutional Convention of the Communist Political Association, there was held a convention of the Communist Party, USA, the sole purpose of which was consideration of the following remarks and motion by Earl Browder, then General Secretary of the Communist Party. This motion was discussed and unanimously adopted. The Communist Party was dissolved and its final convention adjourned. Thereupon a new convention was held which founded the Communist Political Association. [*Introduction in book of published proceedings, pg. 11.*]

It therefore seems most fitting that this Convention shall immediately confirm the actions of the State and District Conventions by declaring the Communist Party dissolved, clearing the way for the delegates assembled here, if they so determine, to reassemble in a new Constitutional Convention to found such a new non-party organization as they may find advisable.

With that purpose I propose in the name of the National Committee and in consultation with the most important delegations in this Convention, the adoption of the following motion:

“I hereby move that the Communist Party of America be and hereby is dissolved and that a committee of three, consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the party, be authorized to take all necessary steps to liquidate its affairs and that such committee be further authorized to dispose of all its property and to turn over any surplus that may remain to any organization or organizations that in their opinion are devoted to our country’s winning of the war in which it is presently engaged and in the achieving of a durable peace.”

I move the adoption of this motion.

Morris Childs, Illinois; William Schneiderman, California; Gilbert Green, New York, spoke in favor of the motion.

Motion to dissolve the Communist Party. Carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the Convention of the Communist Party. Carried unanimously.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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