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# Minutes of the New York State Executive Committee, SPA: New York City — June 21, 1919.

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A regular meeting of the State Executive Committee was held on Saturday, June 21 [1919], at the office of Local New York, Room 505, 7 East 15th Street, New York City, with the following members present: Sheehan, Malkiel, Berlin, Hillquit, Aleinikoff, Friedman, and Gerber. S. Berlin was elected chairman, and in the absence of the secretary, Gerber was elected secretary pro tem. Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read.

Secretary read the written report of the investigation committee investigating the charges against Local Kings and Queens, and report was accepted. Secretary also read a letter [written June 12, 1919] from Aleinikoff as a member of the State Committee objecting to the action of the Executive Committee in revoking the charters of Locals Kings and Queens, and of the action of the Executive Committee in reference to Locals Buffalo and Rochester; Aleinikoff maintaining that as a member of the State Committee he has a right to appeal to the State Committee against the action of the Executive Committee. [Executive Secretary Walter] Cook reports that he did not send the appeal out, as according to Section 8 of Article 2 of the state constitution, a member of the State Executive Committee cannot appeal against the action of the State Executive Committee.

On motion it was decided that the State Executive Committee approve of the action of Secretary Cook in refusing to send out appeal of Aleinikoff, said appeal being violation of Section

8 of Article 2 of the state constitution. Motion was carried by a vote of 6 to 1, Aleinikoff voting in the negative.

State Secretary Cook reports that Local Bronx has notified all foreign-speaking branches affiliated with the federations suspended by the National Executive Committee that their federations having been suspended, that therefore they are no longer part of Local Bronx. That the Central Committee further decided to notify all branches that they must withdraw all delegates to the Central Committee who are members of the "Left Wing," and all branches affiliated with the "Left Wing" section must withdraw or stand suspended. That the Executive Committee be empowered to reorganize any branch that does not comply with the decision of the Central Committee. The Central Committee further withdrew B. Gitlow as a member of the State Committee. That all branches of Local Bronx have complied with the decision of the Central Committee and that Local Bronx now has purged itself of the "Left Wingers."

On motion the report was accepted and decided that Local Bronx be reinstated as a local of the Socialist Party in the state of New York with all rights and privileges.

Secretary further reports that he has notified all officers of the suspended locals to hold the property of the locals in their possession, but to his knowledge none of them paid any attention to this request excepting Mrs. Elsie Heller Ehret, trea-

surer of Local Queens County, who notified the bank that until further notice the money in the bank is to be kept and not paid out to anyone.

He [Cook] has attended party meeting of Local Queens at which Organizer Paul was very bitter in his denunciation against the State Executive Committee. Paul did not submit a single letter of the State Executive Committee to the party meeting. On motion State Secretary was empowered to use all efforts to reorganize Local Queens.

Secretary further reports that so far he has reorganized 16 branches in Local Kings county, of these 4 are Jewish [Yiddish] branches and 12 English branches. On motion it was decided that charter be issued to the reorganized Local Kings County and that they be recognized as the Local Kings County of the Socialist Party of the state of New York.

State Secretary Cook was further instructed to communicate with [Adolph] Germer, National Secretary, and inform him that Locals Kings and Bronx have been reorganized, and that the reorganized locals are recognized by the State Committee, and that he notify the foreign-speaking federations that the branches in the party of these locals affiliated with the foreign-speaking federations, particularly those of the German and Finnish, that they must affiliate with the locals recognized by the State Committee, and that they must withdraw their delegates and recognition from the "Left Wing" locals, and should they fail to do so, these branches be suspended from their respective federations.

It being reported that [Alexander] Trachtenberg, who was elected by the State Executive Committee to represent the State Committee on the Call Board of Management, does not care to serve, it was decided to accept the resignation of Trachtenberg and elect someone else in his place. Theresa Malkiel was elected to fill the vacancy.

Gerber brought to the attention of the State Executive Committee an editorial printed in the

Friday, June 13 [1919], *Volkszeitung* wherein the editor [Ludwig Lore] calls upon the German branches in Kings and Queens not to pay any attention to the suspension of these locals by the State Executive Committee and not to withdraw from the "Left Wing" locals, and not to affiliate with the locals recognized by the State Executive Committee, but to remain "loyal" to the suspended locals. On motion, it was decided that the attention of the Board of Directors of the Socialist Cooperative Publishing Association, which publishes the *Volkszeitung*, be called to this editorial and to demand of the Board of Management that the *Volkszeitung* stand by the Socialist Party organization. Secretary was instructed to communicate with the board and Berlin and Friedman were elected a committee to attend the board meeting and submit the matter. (Board will meet Wednesday, July 2 [1919].)

Cook reports that he has received the minutes from Local Buffalo, which shows that Local Buffalo has adopted the "Left Wing" manifesto as its official program, and on motion it was decided that the State Secretary be instructed to proceed to reorganize Local Buffalo as soon as possible. He was also instructed to reorganize Locals Utica and Rochester.

Bengloff, representative of Utica and representative of Oneida County on the State Committee sent in his resignation. On motion this was laid over until Local Utica has been reorganized.

Cook reports that he has attended the party meeting in Syracuse. On motion it was decided to accept the report of the Secretary of Local Syracuse and matter left in his hands to deal with until the next meeting of the State Executive Committee.

Cook submitted charges against Local North Tonawanda for having joined the "Left Wing." On motion it was decided that the charter be revoked and State Secretary be instructed to reorganize the local as soon as possible.

Aleinikoff wanted to know why the resolu-

tion adopted at the last meeting of the State Committee was not submitted to referendum vote, and by a vote of 6 to 1, State Executive Committee decided that in view of the fact that the state and national constitutions definitely cover the points at issue, and makes the resolution adopted by the meeting of the State Committee unnecessary, same being adopted in misapprehension that the matter was not covered by the constitution, it is the opinion of the State Executive Committee that to submit the resolution to referendum vote would be a violation of the state and national constitution, and would subject the state organization to suspension from the Socialist Party, and therefore this resolution is not to be submitted to a referendum vote.

On motion it was decided that the next meeting of the State Executive Committee be held on Sunday, July 13 [1919], at Albany.

The general situation in the party in New York was discussed, and on motion it was decided to recommend to the members of the State Committee that a special convention be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17 at New York, to hear the report of the State Executive Committee and take up the various matters before the party at the present time. Cook and Gerber were elected a committee to prepare the order of business for the special conventions, should same be held.

*Julius Gerber,*  
Secretary pro tem.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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