
Answers Aleinikoff:

Letter to the Editor of the *New York Call*, June 28, 1919.

by Walter M. Cook

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Editor of *The Call*:

I dislike using the space of *The Call*, but deem it necessary to tell the facts with regard to what Comrade [Nicholas] Aleinikoff has written.

In answer to his letter of June 23 [1919], I would say to the comrades that he has not been prevented from “reaching” the State Committee except to the extent that the state constitution of the party, adopted by party convention and referendum, distinctly forbids me doing so. (Sec. 8, Article 2.) A reading of the minutes of the last State Executive Committee will bear me out in this. The constitution directs as follows:

The State Executive Committee shall furnish report of its meetings and actions taken thereon to the State Committee after each meeting. Upon the demand of two members of the State Committee other than members of the State Executive Committee, made within 15 days after submission of report, any act of the Executive Committee must be submitted to a vote of the State Committee. The minutes of the State Executive Committee shall be sent to all the members of the State Committee for their approval, and unless objections are raised within 15 days after their submission all actions contained therein shall stand approved.

From the above it is so clear that members of the State Committee who are members of the State Executive Committee are not to be permitted to sabotage the work of the party by being allowed to participate in an action a second time, except to vote when called for by other members of the State Committee, that I need make no comment whatever. I would like to say that I resent the implication of Comrade Aleinikoff that I would not make a report of his stand to

the members of the State Committee. He is quite prompt in misstating things before I can physically get the minutes out to the members of the State Committee.

Replying to his letter of June 12 [1919]:

Paragraph 1. Comrade Aleinikoff claims the SEC did not have “evidence” before it when taking action. A sub-committee was appointed to secure that evidence and no one ever before denied that these locals have not adopted the Left Wing manifesto as their official platform and affiliated themselves with that organization — on the contrary, they boast of that fact. Evidence was submitted by the sub-committee and the State Secretary. Comrade Aleinikoff’s statement is not true.

Paragraph 2. Certainly the body which has the power to issue a charter has also the power to revoke same for good and sufficient reasons. “It having come to the notice of the SEC,” is most decidedly sufficient for action on the part of the SEC, especially in view of the fact that the SEC has “immediate charge of the work of organization, etc.” (Article II, Section 7) of the party.

Paragraph 3 has to do with the actions of the previous Secretary — Comrade Solomon — and not with my actions. The communication referred to was sent to other State Committeemen, however, and none saw fit to obey the instructions of the Left Wing by seconding that motion (so-called).

In conclusion, had Comrade Aleinikoff (and others of a similar mind) lived up to the duties of the office he held in the Socialist Party, and had studied the state and national constitutions, as faithfully to defend them against the avowed purpose of the party’s

internal enemies to “split” off from what a few individuals styled the Right, as he is now doing in playing for time with them, he would hardly have left the Socialist Party as he has done.

I can assure the comrades that the executives have stuck to the constitution in letter as well as spirit, in spite of the vicious ruthlessness of those who constitute the Left Wing organization repeatedly and continuously violating those constitutions in many sections and articles, etc., in both letter and spirit. We have no quarrel with opinions as such, but one thing is certain — no dual organization will be tolerated in the ranks of the party. Those who participate in the Left Wing organization will be expelled from our midst, and no feather bed will be provided for their dropping. I would cite the actions of the rank and file in Local Bronx as an example of what the membership will do when we are physically able to present our facts. In due time, and as quickly as possible, all will receive a full report. I look forward to that time, for I feel confident of the verdict of the party membership.

Good cheer, comrades! You need have no fear of the outcome.

Fraternally,

Walter M. Cook,
State Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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