Communist Labor Party Convention:  
Day 2 — Sept. 1, 1919.

by L. Loebl

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Report Made by: L. Loebl  
Place Where Made: Chicago, Ill.  
Date When Made: Sept. 2, 1919.  
Period for Which Made: Sept. 1, 1919.

Title of Case and Offense Charged or Nature of Matter Under Investigation:

In re: Communist Socialist Party of America Convention.

Statement of Operations, Evidence Collected, Names and Addresses of Persons Interviewed, Places Visited, Etc.:

At Chicago:

The committee appointed yesterday to confer with the Communist Party and to report back this morning had not returned until 12:30 pm, and the convention, with CHARLES BAKER of Ohio in the chair, spent its time with singing and entertaining each other and with taking up a collection to defray expenses. Some of the poetical talents got their heads together and composed a new “Bolsheviki War Cry,” as they call it, which was followed a few minutes later by another composition termed “Official Convention Yell.” Their two “songs” were quickly memorized by the audience and continuously sung until some of the delegates had gotten tired of it, and suggested the singing of “The Red Flag.”

In the meantime, I joined some of the delegate into the Executive Committee’s room and secured an original copy of the minutes of yesterday’s session and also a copy of the roster of delegates in order to have the same on record for future reference in this form. The roster is as follows:

Roster of Delegates.  
(as reported by committee.)

Ohio

Charles Baker  
Charles Bonsall  
Alexander Bilan  
J.F. Denison  
Margaret Prevey  
Clifford King  
J.A. Johnson  
T.H. Davies  
C.E. Ruthenberg  
Lawrence A. Zitt  
Lotta Burke  
W. McClory  
Scot Wilkins  
A. Wagenknecht  
M. Jenire  
T. Clifford

New York

Benjamin Gitlow  
E.I. Lindgren  
John Reed  
I.E. Klein  
Mrs. [Sarah] Lindgren  
F. Jacobs  
T. Crimmins  
M. Zucker  
L.B. Boudin  
L. Lore
Upon the return of the committee, its report was heard. Delegate Bauer, from California, reported for the committee that the organized committee of the Communist Party was met, consisting of STILSON, STOKLITSKY, BATT, KOPNAGEL, FERGUSON, RUTHENBERG, and [FORSINGER]. That their answer was that they were not in a position to give immediate reply as the convention has not yet convened, and that they, constituting a joint preliminary committee of the Communist Party and of the National Left Wing Council, were not authorized to decide in a matter of such importance. That the question will be brought up during the convention, and there considered and the decision conveyed to the com-
mittee of the Communist Socialist Party in due time.

Then came the individual reports of each mem-
ber of the committee, and every one of them were of
the belief that the members of the Communist Party
were absolutely hostile to them and that the Russian
deleagtes are controlling the situation, who are against
any kind of a unity of those two parties. The balance
of the day was taken up with discussions on this re-
port, and it was finally decided to organize definitely
and to go on with the order of business regardless of
the Communist Convention.

I observed that REED and GITLOW were bit-
terly attacked within the party and it was predicted
that no amalgamation will be possible until these two
men retire from the leadership.

After adjourning of the session of today, it was
rumored that the convention of the Communist Party
elected a Committee of 5 to meet with the committee
of the Communist Socialist Party, with a view to come
to an understanding.

Discontinued for the day at 10:30 pm.