
Circular Letter to All Federation Secretaries from C.E. Ruthenberg, Executive Secretary of the Communist Party of America Regarding Revision of District Territories, Feb. 2, 1920

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New York, Feb. 2, 1920.

district and Erie; Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, and South.

To All Federations:—

Due to some new circumstances arising we have been obliged to readjust the districts into which our territory was divided. The new arrangement is as follows:

District #1 [BOSTON]: All of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, and that part of the state of Connecticut which is North of New Haven.

District #2 [NEW YORK]: The state of Connecticut from New Haven South; New York state from Rochester (but not including Rochester) East; the state of New Jersey with the exception of Atlantic City, Camden and Trenton, and other places in southern part of state.

District #3 [PHILADELPHIA]: That part of New Jersey which does not belong to District 2; the state of Pennsylvania, except the Pittsburgh

District #4 [CLEVELAND]: Pittsburgh district and Erie in Pennsylvania; Western New York including Buffalo, Rochester, Tonawanda, and adjacent cities; all of Ohio, West Virginia, and Michigan.†

District #5 [CHICAGO]: Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and everything West to the Rocky Mountains.

District #6: Pacific Coast District.

Organizers of the National Organization are now at work in District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. District 6 will be taken up later.

Each Federation should at once appoint its organizers for the districts as above outlined and the names of these organizers should be turned over to the National Organization so that the District Organizers may be informed how to reach the Federation Organizers, who will compose the

†- In March 1920, District 4 was divided into 3 parts — **District 4A (CLEVELAND):** Ohio, except for towns in vicinity of Wheeling, WV; **District 4B (PITTSBURGH):** Pittsburgh vicinity, Wheeling, WV, Western New York, including Buffalo and Rochester; **District 4C (DETROIT):** All of Michigan. This decision was quickly amended in April 1920, when Districts 4A and 4B were combined under a single District Organizer, leaving the CPA with a total of 7 districts, counting a nearly nonexistent presence on the Pacific Coast, where the Communist Labor Party maintained a much stronger presence.

It should also be noted that it was common for the old CPA to use Roman numerals and lower case letters to denote its districts, i.e., “D#IVc” rather than “D-4C.” This was particularly true during the period when the party was headed by Charles Dirba.

District Committee.

Enclosed you will find a supply of dues stamps and of the special organization stamps, which you should place in the hands of your District Organizers. The National District Organizers are also supplied with stamps and your District Organizers can secure them from the National District Organizers in case the necessity arises.

Defense Fund Coupons, to be used in place of lists, are also in the hands of the National District Organizers.

Temporarily you may communicate with me by addressing outside envelope to Charles Recht, 47 W 42nd St., New York, NY, with inside addressed to me.

Fraternally yours,

[C.E. Ruthenberg]
Executive Secretary.

Organization stamps 1000.

Dues stamps — will send later.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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