

United Communist Party Membership Bulletin No. 5

[c. Nov. 20, 1920]†

Copy in Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 28, ll. 21-22;
Russian translation: f. 515, op. 1, d. 28, ll. 16-18; second Russian copy: ll. 40-42.

BULLETIN NO. 5

(One copy to each group — read — destroy)

TO ALL PARTY AFFILIATIONS:—

At the bottom of the financial report we give 3448 as the [October 1920] financial report we give 3448 as the average membership of our party for July, August, and September [1920]. But this number does not include those women comrades who hold membership together with their husbands by the purchase of one dues stamp for both husband and wife. Counting these “dual” memberships, our average for these months would increase by from 5 to 10 percent. At the recent conference of District Organizers [New York: Nov. 10-13, 1920] the following membership was reported by them:

<i>District</i>	<i>Groups</i>	<i>Members</i>
Dist. 1 [Boston]	59	531
Dist. 2 [New York]	127	1040
Dist. 3 [Philadelphia]	45	430
Dist. 4-5 [Pittsburgh/Cleveland]	145	1252
Dist. 6 [Detroit]	48	420
Dist. 7-8 [Chicago/St. Louis]	198	1550
Dist. 9 [Denver]	7	70
Dist. 10 [San Francisco]	10	100
Dist. 11 [Portland or Seattle]	10	100
TOTAL	649	5493

District Organizers from 9, 10, 11 [Denver west] were not present and membership from those districts is estimated conservatively.

The financial reports of the CP show the following membership: July [1920] 1524; August [1920] 1918; September [1920] 3850. This gives the CP an average membership for these 3 months of 2431 as against 3448 for us (not counting dual members in our party).

As proof of our contention that the CP would manipulate its membership role, we want to cite the membership which this party reports for October [1920]. From an average of 2431 for the months of July, August, and September, the leaders of this party manipulate financial reports so that for October a membership of 8383 is reported by them. The membership of our party for October will be about the same as that reported for September, plus the legitimate and steady increase we have made in membership since our organization.

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Extracts from the Minutes of the Recent CEC Meeting [Nov. 2-5 & 9-16, 1920].

Report of delegates to the 2nd Congress of III [the Comintern] heard.

Question of unity given immediate consider-

†- Date of document based details given of the “recent CEC meeting,” which is known to have been held in New York from Nov. 2-5 and 9-16, 1920. Minutes of this session are present in the files of the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Investigation, part of National Archive & Record Administration microfilm collection M-1085, reel 940. A downloadable pdf of these minutes is available from www.marxisthistory.org.

ation. Results as per printed report.

Committee on Constitution elected, this committee to suggest amendments for membership and convention consideration. Result of labors of this committee sent to groups.

Committee on Program elected. This committee will report to next CEC meeting and CEC will report to convention.

Committees on Education and Shop and Union Propaganda and Education elected. Committee on Education reported. This report will be printed in official organ. Committee on Shop Organization still deliberating.

An Editorial Committee of 3 will edit the official organ until such time as an editor-in-chief is elected. The assistance of members who can write for publication is solicited.

It was decided to destroy copies of *The State and Revolution* in the Jewish language [Yiddish] because it was found incomplete in contents. A new and complete edition was ordered.

Joint meetings with District Organizers were held [Nov. 10-13, 1920]. DOs from Districts 1 [Boston], 2 [New York], 3 [Philadelphia], 4-5 [Cleveland], 6 [Detroit], and 7 [Chicago] were present. District Organizers were instructed, after a preliminary discussion on unity was had, to make immediate reports to their district affiliations upon this question. A report from District Organizers was called for and the following subjects were covered:

- 1) Membership and proportion in each language; state of its activity.
- 2) Effectiveness of sale of all illegal organs.
- 3) Status of persecution.
- 4) Open work and meetings.
- 5) Labor organs.
- 6) Defense activities.
- 7) Educational activities.
- 8) Volume of voluntary help and need for paid assistants.
- 9) Criticism of National Office.

- 10) Shop committees and IWW.
- 11) Miscellaneous.

The agenda for the joint meeting covered the following topics:

- 1) Official organs.
- 2) Labor organs.
- 3) Leaflets.
- 4) Pamphlets.
- 5) Shop committees.
- 6) Educational work.
- 7) Defense work.
- 8) Organizers.
- 9) IWW.
- 10) Young People's League.
- 11) Medical relief.
- 12) Athletic clubs.
- 13) Unemployment.
- 14) Lettish [Latvian] independent branches.
- 15) Discipline.
- 16) Agrarian question.

Several items in the agenda were not reached in the joint meeting but the conference was of great educational value and besides, much information of organization value was exchanged.

Secretary of the Pan-American Bureau appointed by III [the Comintern] was conferred with and provisional arrangements for conducting the work were made.

Hereafter all official organs, when technically possible, will be 8 pages in size and 5 cents in price.

Books and pamphlets considered. One in each main language other than English ordered at once. English pamphlets ordered.

Address of III [ECCI] to SP of A read and duplicates ordered.

Leaflet upon unemployment ordered. Leaflets in those languages in which orders total 5,000 or more will be printed hereafter.

Lettish [Latvian] independent branches (those

who seceded from the CP Lettish [Latvian] Federation) addressed the CEC asking for special representation at the unity convention. Denied by the CEC but invitation sent them to join the party and enjoy full membership rights.

Subcommittee elected to secure information regarding the IWW looking forward to the education of the membership of this organization. Pamphlet to be produced dealing specifically with the principle of the party and the error of those of the IWW.

Subcommittee elected to supervise language legal organ of which party groups in districts 4 [Cleveland] and 6 [Detroit] were complaining.

Complete and immediate industrial and union registration was ordered so that the work of organizing shop and union caucuses can proceed, as well as the eventual organization of shop committees.

Districts were reviewed in regard to additional help needed.

It was decided to forward to the CP a copy of

all official documents received from III [ECCI]. It was decided to pay certain loans made by CP members for bonds before the CP split.

Charges were ordered preferred against any member who would not subject himself to CEC decisions and agree to the tactic of party control of any organization which attempts propaganda in line with party principles.

Local quorum of CEC [New York members] took up minor matters referred to it:

1) Canada was made District 12 and a District Organizer was named.

2) Illegal manufacture of liquor by members will not be tolerated; it jeopardizes the safety of the party and its connections.

3) Legal pamphlets and their speedy publication was ordered.

Fraternally submitted,

Paul Holt [Alfred Wagenknecht],
Executive Secretary.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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