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# Membership Bulletin of the United Communist Party [circa May 5, 1921]

Untitled 3 page document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files,  
NARA M-1085, reel 928, file 202600-391.

Dear Comrades:—

You may well compliment yourselves on the success of the UCP May Day propaganda effort. Nearly 2 million leaflets and stickers were distributed by several thousand comrades, and, outside of one city where there seems to have been a “leak,” less than a score of them were caught. The capitalist press reprinted the essential parts of the leaflets in many millions of copies, thus reaching the great mass of the workers with the message of revolution.

The raids upon two of our workplaces here [in New York] gave the enemy very little information that will harm us, as our vital centers are well covered and safe.<sup>1</sup> They resulted in publicity worth tens of thousands of dollars to our movement. Millions of working men have now read the suggestions for underground propaganda which were kindly reprinted by the capitalist press, and will now make use of these effective methods in their working class propaganda, even though they have no connection with the Party.

In many cities splendid meetings were held, while the so-called “Americanism” meetings fell flat. Ten times as many people came to the meeting boosted by us here in New York City as to those of the

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<sup>1</sup> An apartment leased by Helen Ware (daughter of Ella Reeve Bloor), located at 170 Bleeker Street, New York City, was one of these sites raided. The apartment appears to have functioned at the time as de facto national headquarters of the UCP, although the internal documents of the Bureau of Investigation indicate that the BoI never themselves made that specific connection. Material seized in this April 29, 1921 raid appears in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA collection M-1085, reels 939 and 940.

SP and the CP combined. The UCP emerges from this May Day test as the acknowledged “vanguard of the class-conscious workers” of the US.

We must follow up this favorable situation with an aggressive educational campaign. Keep your ears open. Listen to the workers who argue about what the capitalist press reports. When you hear one take our side in the argument, cultivate him. Give him leaflets. Sell him papers and books. Do all you can to bring him to the point where he endorses our whole program and wants to join the organization to help win a speedy victory for working class supremacy.

It was of course inevitable that in such a tremendous campaign as we have just conducted there should be some casualties, but through experience we learn how to reduce to the minimum the percentage of active members who get caught. It is our duty to take care of every arrested member. Bring every Defense Committee to full life at once. Help secure bail. Collect funds for Defense, for Prison Comforts, and for prisoners’ families. Every member, unemployed as well as employed, must help with this work.

But do not permit the matter of Defense to halt the regular Party activities. Make a special campaign RIGHT NOW to sell all the literature that you may have on hand, in District and sub-district as well as section, branch, and group. Clean up the old and turn in all the cash at once, as we shall have many new publications very quickly after unity is achieved.<sup>2</sup>

Another matter:— Pay up your dues and assessments. You surely want to be counted as in good standing on the day that Communist Unity is proclaimed, so as to be admitted to the newly united Party without question.

On with the Revolution,

*Central Executive Committee,  
United Communist Party.*

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<sup>2</sup> A Joint Unity Convention bringing together the United Communist Party with the Communist Party of America was held at the Overlook Mountain House hotel, near Woodstock, NY, from May 15-28, 1921.

N.B.— Do not let sensational newspaper reports worry you. Your CEC and DOs are on the job. The raiders did NOT get your safe addresses. Be careful — but GET THE PARTY WORK DONE.

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### **Bulletin.**

Until further notice members should not try to leave for Russia. It is extremely difficult now to secure passports. You will be notified when the situation changes.

Capitalist Press of Boston reports: “City flooded with Communist Circulars.” The work was done so carefully that not a single member was caught.

Similar reports come from St. Paul. That is 100% efficiency.

Members are instructed to propagandize the delegates to the IWW convention, which is to be held in Chicago May 9th [1921].

There is a split developing in the SP. Help it along. The idea is to persuade the so-called Left Wingers in the SP NOT to try to make the SP platform a little more revolutionary, but to let the reactionaries make it as conservative as possible, so that the “Left” will be driven out of the SP ranks. The SP can not be saved for the revolution. Not to “capture” it, but to split and wreck it, must be the tactic of the “Left” elements now in its ranks.

In answer to a question from D13 [Milwaukee], the CEC decided that unemployed workers who join the Party must pay initiation fee [\$1.00], but need not pay dues [75¢ per month] while their unemployment lasts.

Members are cautioned not to talk about the unity convention at all outside of underground party meetings until the official report

comes out afterwards. Remember: EVEN THE WALLS HAVE EARS.

If you can secure photographs of detectives who specialize on us, send them in. Also photos and particulars of any member who may be found to be spies. We'll publish them as a protection to the members.

In order to secure a general view of revolutionary activities all over the country the National Office requests that in each city one comrade be selected to send in interesting clippings from the capitalist press. Please start at once with reports of May Day events.

Some of the stickers sent you are good even after May Day. If you have any left be sure to put them to work.

We again call your attention to the fact that the party is taking an official census of its membership. Blanks have been provided for this purpose, one for each group, which must be filled in and forwarded with the convention delegates. If for some reason your groups was missed, notify your organizer at once, and make sure that you are recorded on the proper blanks.

Does every member in your group sell literature? The Party has on hand thousands of pamphlets in many languages. Every member must sell literature to all workers he can reach, no matter what language the worker speaks. Ask your District Organizer to send you pamphlets in Finnish, German, Hungarian, Jewish [Yiddish], Polish, Russian, South Slavic [Croatian], Ukrainian, and English, specifying how many you can use of each.

The UCP now has affiliations in 20 languages. A special Negro group is also affiliated and others are in process of formation.

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport*

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