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# Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America: New York City — Jan. 3, 1923.

Copy in Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 148, ll. 176-178.

Present: [Louis] Engdahl, [Edward] Lindgren, [Bill] Kruse, [Moissaye] Olgin, [Ludwig] Lore, [Marion] Emerson, [Theo] Maki, [Harry] Wicks, [Bill] Dunne, [Alex] Bittelman, and [C.E.] Ruthenberg.

Comrade Dunne elected chairman.

## **Election of Executive Council.**

The following members of the CEC were elected the Executive Council, to function between the sessions of the CEC:

A. Bittelman  
M.J. Olgin  
James P. Cannon  
C.E. Ruthenberg  
William F. Dunne  
Marion Emerson  
J.L. Engdahl  
H.M. Wicks  
Edward Lindgren  
Ludwig Lore  
Theo Maki

The vote in writing of A. Jakira, I. Amter, Jay Lovestone, Robert Minor, L.E. Katterfeld, Rose Pastor Stokes, M. Nastasievsky, Alfred Wagenknecht, William W. Weinstone, and John Pepper concurring in the above election was presented by the Secretary [Ruthenberg].

## **District Organizers.**

The resignation of Caleb Harrison as District Organizer at Cleveland was read and accepted. H.E. Keas was elected to fill the vacancy.

The resignation of Paul Reiss, Acting DO in San Francisco, was read and accepted and James H. Dolson appointed to fill vacancy.

## **District #9 Headquarters.**

The recommendation of the District Convention and letter from the DO [Charles Dirba] in regard to the moving of the district headquarters from Minneapolis to Superior [Wisconsin] were read and the following *motion adopted*:

“For the present we do not see our way clear to give approval of the moving of the district headquarters from Minneapolis to Superior.”

## **Distribution of the Party Program.**

The Secretary [Ruthenberg] submitted a report outlining a campaign for the distribution of a MILLION COPIES of the new Party program through mobilizing all the Party branches for this work during the next 3 months and systematical covering of every city and town.

*Motion carried to approve.*

## **Russian Bureau.**

Letter from the Secretary of the Russian Section

read submitting the names of G. Ashkenuzi, Visotsky, Ossin, Perepelin, and Radzianovich as the Bureau of the Federation elected by the Russian Convention.

*Motion carried to approve.*

### **Lithuanian Bureau.**

Letter read from the Lithuanian Bureau approving of the Labor Party policy of the Party and stating protest of Bureau at the high rent paid for the National Headquarters. The Executive Secretary stated that the rent of the National Headquarters was \$295, of which \$100 was received from a tenant to whom part of the original headquarters is rented. The Party lease runs until February 1, 1925.

*Motion to file protest carried.*

### **Hungarian Bureau.**

The election of J. Lassen, D. Hagnal, V. Masanek, E. Steiner, J. Bartell, H. Mauthner, J. Bender; alternates J. Becker, L. Eber as Bureau of the Federation was *approved*.

### **San Francisco United Front Campaign.**

After reading the platform and other literature concerning the United Front Campaign in San Francisco for the election of George Kidwell for Congress and considering the list of the organizations participating, *a motion was carried to approve the action* of the Party organization in joining in this campaign as in harmony with the United Front and Labor Party policy of the Party.

### **Political Committee.**

*Motion carried*, that a committee of 3 be elected

with authority to issue manifestos and statements in the name of the CEC between sessions of the Executive Council.

Comrades Bittelman, Engdahl, and Ruthenberg elected.

### **Organization Work in the South.**

Letter from Mrs. F.J. Lynn, Secretary of the local at Birmingham, Ala., offering her services for organization work for the Party read. *Motion carried*, that the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] be authorized to employ Mrs. Lynn for organization work at \$40 per month.

### **Resolution on Salutsky and the Cleveland Conference.**

A number of resolutions from branches urging the expulsion of J.B. Salutsky for his conduct at the Cleveland Conference were read.† *Motion carried*, that the Political Committee file charges against Salutsky before the branch of which he is a member.

### **Language Used in *The Worker*.**

In the discussion of the Salutsky matter, Comrade Lore entered a protest against the language used in the article by I. Amter, "Sidelight on the Cleveland Conference."

### **Verblen Committee Report.**

Comrade Lindgren stated for the Verblen Case Investigating Committee that the report of the Committee was being written and would be submitted at the next meeting of the CEC.

†- At the Dec. 11-12, 1922 conference of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, WPA member J.B. Salutsky, a delegate to the conference from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, failed to come to the aid of his party when it was attacked from the floor as being financed by employers. He also failed to rise in challenge of the report of the Credentials Committee recommending that the WPA not be seated. This prompted Executive Secretary C.E. Ruthenberg to publish a bitter article in *The Worker* detailing these actions, entitled "Salutsky — A Communist?" Ruthenberg concluded this short piece with the provocative line "Let the party judge him." The motions of various WPA local units denouncing Salutsky were issued in response to this Dec. 23, 1922 Ruthenberg article. This Ruthenberg article is available as a downloadable pdf from [www.marxisthistory.org](http://www.marxisthistory.org) Salutsky was eventually expelled from the Workers Party of America in July 1923, ostensibly for continuing to publish a non-party magazine in spite of a Feb. 19, 1923 ban of such activity by the WPA Political Committee.

### **Manifesto on Protection of Foreign-Born.**

*Motion carried*, that Comrade Lore be instructed to write a manifesto on the Protection of the Foreign-Born Workers Campaign.

### **Relief Appeals.**

The question of relief appeals was taken up and a *motion presented* to reconsider the action of the Administrative Council to grant permission to the German Language Section to make an appeal for German children, the money to be distributed through the Communist Party of Germany. Comrade Lode protested, stating that the appeal was already out and that the action could not be rescinded without endangering the German Language Section.

*Motion carried*, that a committee of three be elected to formulate the policy of the Party in regard to such relief appeals. Lore, Dunne, and Maki elected.

### **Immigration Policy.**

*Motion*, that a resolution on the immigration policy of the Party be drafted by the Political Committee and presented at the next meeting. *Carried.*

### **Farmer-Labor Party Conference.**

It was reported that the Farmer-Labor Party proposed withdrawing from the Conference for Progressive Political Action.

*Motion carried*, that Comrades Dunne and Ruthenberg be elected as a committee to attend the conference and take up the question of future cooperation in the campaign for the Labor Party and for Protection of the Foreign-Born.

### **Open Letter to Debs Regarding Socialist Betrayal at Cleveland.**

The question of drafting an open letter to Debs

in regard to the Socialist Betrayal at Cleveland was referred to the Political Committee.

### **Lettish [Latvian] Language Section.**

Letters from the Lettish [Latvian] Branch of New York proposing the publication of a Lettish weekly in New York and urging regional conferences of the Lettish Section were read. The Secretary [Ruthenberg] was instructed to write to the Lettish Bureau requesting a statement of its views on these matters.

### **Convention Resolutions.**

Motion carried, that the Political Committee take up the convention resolutions referred to the CEC and submit recommendations.

### **Leaflet on Forward Actions.**

Motion presented that the Jewish Bureau issue a leaflet to be written by Comrade Olgin on the history of The Forward, particularly in connection with the work of the FSR [Friends of Soviet Russia]. It was stated by Comrades Olgin and Bittelman that the time was opportune as the question was not an issue. *The motion carried* with the amendment that the leaflet be issued when the opportunity presents itself.

### **Meetings of the Executive Council.**

Motion carried, that the Executive Council meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at 8 pm.

*C.E. Ruthenberg,*  
Executive Secretary.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.  
Italics inserted by editor to enhance readability.*

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