
Letter to the Workers Party of America and all its Language Federations from the Executive Committee of the Communist International, January 25, 1923. †

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 164, ll. 1-3.

To the Workers Party of America
and all its Language Federations.

Dear Comrades:

It is with great pleasure that the Communist International has learned of the progress that the Workers Party has made in the past few months. We are especially gratified at the militant spirit that has manifested itself in the Party since the Second Convention in December 1922. The unity of spirit, the determination to work, and the understanding of the path to be trodden and the general tactics to be applied augur that, in the near future, the Workers Party will mature to one of the truly Communist mass parties of the world.

The composition of the Workers Party with its 16 Language Federations is unique among the parties of the Communist International. Although these Federations might act as a hindrance to revolutionary work, they, on the other hand, allow the WP to come into direct contact with the great mass of foreign-born workers, who are the most exploited in the country. The WP has, we think, solved the question of Language Federations in a satisfactory way, in that it regards the Federations merely as propaganda sections of the Party. The comrades of the Language Federations appear also

to grasp their task in the right spirit, and to understand that the Party should be a unit despite its many tongues. The CI calls on the members of the Federations to regard *this unity with the Party as one of its most important duties*, and strive for ever closer unity.

The CI notes with satisfaction also that several of the Language Federations have good, militant organs in their languages whereby they are able to reach wide masses of workers.

At this point, however, we must say a word about the nature of your press. It is the duty of the foreign-language press to lead the foreign-born workers in the USA to an *understanding of the capitalist system and the workers movement in America*. It is a mistake when foreign-language papers in America deal too much with the conditions in Europe only. Even though foreign-born workers naturally are interested in the affairs of the country from which they have emigrated, it is the duty and task of the Communist foreign-language press in the USA to awaken these workers to class-consciousness and to struggle against the capitalism under which they are exploited, viz. the capitalism in the USA.

It should not be forgotten, either, that a language paper is able to serve the workers of that special language only. This is a most serious hin-

†- This document, although not serial numbered, appears in the chronological 1923 archival file ahead of a document dated February 20, 1923, and bears what appears to be the handwritten date "25/1/aA" in colored grease pencil immediately below the blank space for document date at the top of the letterhead. Most likely candidate for authorship of this document is Otto Kuusinen, who signed similar documents to the WPA during the first part of 1923.

drance to really revolutionary propoganda among the great masses of American workers. It is a most deplorable fact that *against some ten foreign-language Communist dailies there is not a single English Communist daily in America*. Every comrade whose heart beats for the sake of Communism must and certainly does deplore this fact and realizes that *until the WP has at least one English daily with a wide circulation, it will not be able to reach sufficiently wide masses of the American proletariat*.

Comrades of the Language Federations:

The question of an English daily in the USA is as much *your* question as that of the English-speaking comrades. In fact it is more your problem, since you represent by far the major part of the WP. *Now this is the time and this is the occasion when you can best demonstrate whether the WP is a unit or not*. The CI asks you to consider it as one of your *most urgent* duties immediately to mobilize all your forces — AS A UNIT — and the support of all sympathizers to the cause of Communism and together with the English-speaking comrades — yes, the Party as a whole to start

A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENGLISH DAILY!

A fitting slogan for this campaign would be: An English daily for the WP *by November 7, 1923* — an English daily for the Communist movement in the USA by the day of the next anniversary of the establishment of the first Workers Soviet Government in the world.

As a fighting organ of the Communist movement of America, this organ will have the gigantic task of fighting the tremendous power of capitalism and the reactionary bureaucracy of the old labor movement. The paper will be the center of many battles, but these battles will help you to mobilize sufficient masses of militant workers and to secure the victory of the Communist Revolution.

Comrades, to the task!

The CI wishes you the fullest success in the campaign.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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