
National Labor Party is Born: Conference of Delegates Calls Convention at Chicago, November 22nd.

by Robert M. Buck

Published in *The New Majority* [Chicago], v. 2, no. 8 (Aug. 23, 1919), pg. 1.
Unsigned article attributed to editor Robert M. Buck.

The National Labor Party is born.

Last Monday [Aug. 18, 1919] the national conference of representatives of Labor Party groups, meeting in Chicago, voted to take the initial steps toward the formation of a national party for labor and decided to issue a call for a convention to organize the national party at Chicago, November 22, 1919.

The conference also organized a national lecture bureau committee to manage a lecture tour of the United States by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, Secretary of the British Labour Party, under the auspices of the new national party. *The New Majority* was made the official organ of the national movement, pending the convention.

The following basis for representation in the national convention was adopted: From city central labor bodies, 1 delegate each; from labor parties (state or local) and from local labor unions, 1 delegate for each 500 members.

Plumb Plan Endorsed.

Invitation was extended to the Non-Partisan League and to the Committee of 48 to send 1 fraternal delegate each, a similar invitation to be extended to other organizations selected by the temporary Executive Committee, which was appointed to act in the interim, between the conference and the convention.

Immediately after the adjournment of the conference the Executive Committee held a session and endorse, in the name of the conference, the plan for

nationalization of railroads proposed by the 14 brotherhoods of railroad employees, popularly known as the Plumb Plan.

The Executive Committee consists of the following:

Max Hayes, Cleveland, O., Chairman.
Abraham Lefkowitz, New York.
Charles R. Nuzum, Kansas City, Kan.
M.T. Bennett, Hartford, Conn.
William E. Rodriguez, Chicago.
Mrs. Alice M. Englert, Chicago.
Frank Esper, Secretary of the Illinois Labor Party.
Robert M. Buck, Chicago.

The Chicago members were designated as a subcommittee of the temporary Executive Committee to arrange the convention.

Delegates from Seven States.

The conference was called on the initiative of the Executive Committees of the Labor party of Illinois, the Labor Party of Cook County, the Illinois State Federation of Labor, and the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Thirty delegates attended from Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Kansas. Credentials were received for delegates from California and Pennsylvania, but the delegates did not arrive. The Labor Party of North Dakota, although authorized by the North Dakota State Federation... [*The article abruptly terminates here.*]

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.