
Minutes of the Lithuanian Bureau, CPA: Meeting of October 18, 1922.

by “V. Grazys”

Handwritten document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 139, ll. 20-23.

Present: All Bureau members (except Willis) and Comrades Zubrys, Barbos, Leonidas, Roe, and former opposition member J. Maseika.† The CEC representative who requested and was given the connections of this meeting did not show up.

Comrade Ross was elected chairman.

Secretary #2 [WPA Lithuanian Federation] reported on the conditions of unity with the former opposition, the Official Organ, and minor matters of the Federation.

Secretary #2 [WPA Lithuanian Federation] made a report on the #2 [WPA] conference. The Bureau decided to hold the conference (in view of the CEC's decision that no conferences of #2 [WPA] Federations be held prior to the #2 [WPA] convention) 1) immediately after the #2 [WPA] convention; 2) that the representation be one delegate for each branch and 25 members, or major fraction thereof; 3) that the expenses of delegates be paid by the units that send them.

Regarding the celebration of the 5th Anniversary of Soviet Russia, the Secretary [Grazys] stated that the CEC of #2 [WPA] did not give any instructions regarding the collecting of funds or <illeg.> that the Federations are required to collect. That only a general outline of the program from that day was received from #2 [WPA], translated, and sent out to the branches. That it is understood that no separate arrangements be made by language units except in places where there are no general Party organizations and that no money will be received by the Secretary — all the proceeds to go to the National Office of #2 direct.

That it is not true that all proceeds of such meetings are to [be retained by] the #2 [WPA], because there already is an arrangement with a Jewish paper that half the proceeds of a certain meeting will be given to that paper.

The report was accepted with the expression of surprise that while the #1 [CPA] Bureau receives certain directions from the CEC of #1 [CPA], the Bureau of #2 [WPA] receives something entirely different from the CEC of #2 [WPA].

Motion: That we approve the #2 [WPA] Bureau arrangement for a #2 [WPA] conference.

Carried.

The committee to investigate certain matters in connection with the disagreement of Comrade Razin and another comrade recommended that the whole matter be dropped because of complication of the matter.

Report accepted.

Comrade J. Maseika reported for the former opposition [Central Caucus faction] as follows: That the other member of the former opposition who is to be added to the Bureau was unable to attend this meeting on account of an important engagement previously made, but that he will attend the next meeting.

The general status of the opposition [Lithuanian] Federation is: its Bureau accepted the decisions of the Opposition's Convention [2nd: Sept. 1922]. There are the following number of members in the opposition Federation:

†- In addition to Secretary V. Grazys, members of the Lithuanian Bureau included (pseudonyms) Baron, Johnson, Pakalniskis, Phillips, Ross, and Willis. The “opposition” referred to was the Central Caucus faction. As part of terms of the liquidation of the Central Caucus faction ratified by its 2nd Convention in September 1922, the group was allowed representation on the Executive Committees of the various language federations of the unified CPA.

District 1 [Boston] — about 10.
 District 2 [New York] — 51.
 District 3 [Philadelphia] — about 80.
 District 4 [Cleveland] — about 60.
 District 5 [Chicago] — only a few.
 District 6 [Detroit] — about 40.

or about 241 in all.

He also stated that while membership of Brooklyn (a total of 15; they used to claim 40 members there) is for unity, all other districts and units were very hostile up to this moment and require strenuous efforts on our part to bring them in. District 4 [Cleveland], for example, even after the convention wrote a letter stating that because a few leaders had decided to unite it did not mean that the membership would follow them. The same opinion was expressed by the shareholders meeting of their legal paper immediately preceding the convention.

Comrade Maseika expressed the opinion that we endeavor to keep up this paper if the shareholders agree to our control. He also mentioned the fact that the former Bureau of the opposition that returned to the Party prior to June 25 had in its possession one magazine of the type that was used for setting their Official Organ.† (*Note by Secretary: The CB [Central Bureau] did not receive such a magazine, which shows that the former opposition Bureau that came back prior to June 25 has still in its mind some mysterious purpose. An investigation will be made as to what became of that type. Comrade Maseika has no knowledge how many members they have in their legal organization [United Toilers Party].*)

Report accepted.

Motion: That we elect a committee of 3 for the purpose of carrying on transactions with the former opposition regarding its property and other matters and make a report at the next meeting.

†- The Bureau of the Central Caucus' Lithuanian Federation, headed by "B. Karpus," voted to liquidate itself on June 21, 1922, just prior to a June 25 deadline imposed by the Comintern. A new irreconcilable opposition Lithuanian Bureau seems to have immediately reconstituted itself, however. It was this second opposition bureau that was brought into the fold after the 2nd Convention of the Central Caucus faction's "Communist Party of America" in September 1922.

Carried.

The committee: Maseika, Ross, and Barbos.

Motion: That the two members of the former opposition that were added to our #1 [CPA] Bureau be also added to our #2 [WPA] Bureau.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Secretary of #2 [WPA] shall issue an appeal to the members of the legal organization of the former opposition [United Toilers Party] urging them to join the #2 [WPA].

Carried.

Motion: That we issue the next OO [official organ] of #1 [Lithuanian edition of *The Communist*] prior to the conference.

Carried.

Motion: That in view of no money in the treasury, the members of the Bureau loan small denominations for the purpose of issuing the OO [official organ].

Carried.

Fifty dollars were received in small loans at this meeting.

Comrade Kubek was approved DO6 [Detroit] in place of Comrade Randis, who resigned.

The celebration of the 5th Anniversary of the Soviet Revolution was left in the hands of Bureau #2 [WPA], the Secretary of #1 [Grazys] to transmit instructions to branches of #1 [CPA] and at the same time to find out from the CEC just exactly what is the arrangement in view of the contradictions as reported by Secretary #2.

Adjourned.

V. Grazys [???], Secretary.

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