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# Executive Motions of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America [submitted Dec. 17, 1919]

Copy in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 931, file 313846.

December 17th, 1919. Comrade Ruthenberg:

To the Members of the  
Central Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades:

The following motions by Comrade [Nicholas] Hourwich are submitted for your decision.

## **Motion #7.**

1. *That the Central Executive Committee start an investigation of the relation of Santeri Nuorteva with the informer-agent of the Department of Justice and that pending this investigation the CEC call upon Comrade Martens to suspend Nuorteva from the Soviet Bureau.*

## **Motion #8.**

2. *The International Delegates of the Communist Party shall carry with them all documents concerning this affair and be empowered to lay the case before the Russian Soviet Government.*

Substitute for above motions submitted by

*That the New York members who were present at the hearing prepare a certified copy of the stenographic report and that this be transmitted to the Russian Soviet Government for action.*

**Comment:** For the CEC to decide to investigate the matter further is a useless flourish of words. We have no means to conduct such an investigation. To ask the Soviet Bureau to suspend Nuorteva when the entire Bureau seems to be involved is equally useless. Submit the documents to the powers that control the Bureau and let them speak for themselves. Any other action merely means useless controversy.

## **Motion #10. By Bittelman.**

That the CEC censure the acting editor of *The Communist* [I.E. Ferguson] for his editorial comment to the article of G. Andreychine, and instruct him in future to abide by the policies of the Communist Party as formulated by the convention and the last session of the CEC. (Copy of article in question is attached.)†

†- Reference is to comments attached to Andreychine's "On Which Side of the Barricade Are You?" reprinted from *The Industrial Worker* in the Dec. 6, 1919 issue of *The Communist*. In a boxed comment, Acting Editor Ferguson wrote that "the editor takes sharp issue with the characterization of the Communist Party among the 'adversaries' of the IWW.... The members of the Communist Party are among the most ardent supporters of the revolutionary industrial unionism of the IWW character."

**Comment in opposition by Ruthenberg:**

I have re-read the comment in question and I do not believe that anyone but our hypersensitive theoretical purists who want us to remain a sect apart from the interests of the masses can find anything in this comment in violation of the party decisions. The motion should be voted down.

Vote on above motions closes December 31st [1919].

Fraternally Yours,

*C.E. Ruthenberg,*  
Executive Secretary.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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