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## Letter to A. Wagenknecht in New York from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York, April 22, 1920.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 33, l. 57.

New York, April 22, 1920

Alfred Wagenknecht, Executive Secretary  
Communist Labor Party  
New York, NY

Dear Comrade:—

Regarding the pending negotiations between the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party for a unity convention, it will be of interest to you to know that a division has taken place in our organization over a factional controversy and that at the present time the Executive Secretary, a minority of the Central Executive Committee, the Polish Federation, the German Federation, the Estonian Federation, and the District Organizers of Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Boston no longer recognize the authority of the majority group of the Central Executive Committee.

In addition to the above, the Jewish Federation has withdrawn from relations with the majority of the Central Executive Committee and assumed a position of neutrality in the factional struggle.

The group for which I am acting has issued a call for a National Convention of the party at an early date and is ready to include the Communist Labor Party in this convention on the basis of the tentative agreement already reached, but if such inclusion is to take place it will be necessary for you to take prompt

action, as the existing conditions make it imperative that the convention be held without delay.

While from the above statement it might seem that the Russian, Lithuanian, and Lettish [Latvian] Federations are supporting the majority of the CEC of our organization, as well as the Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York District Organizers, this is not the case and all the evidence goes to show that the larger part of the party will be united in our group. Negotiations are pending for inclusion of both groups in the one convention.

It might be desirable that we discuss the situation personally. If you wish to do this I would be glad to make an appointment. I am leaving the city today but will return next Tuesday [April 27].

Fraternally yours,

C.E. Ruthenberg  
Executive Secretary  
Communist Party of America

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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