
Letter to Leonid Belsky in Chicago from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York, May 6, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 195, folder 11.

New York, May 6, 1920.

Dear Fisher [Belsky]:—

I have come to an agreement with the CLP on the basis of the Unity Conference call which I sent you a few days ago. At a conference this afternoon the details were agreed to. The convention is to be held one week later than the date which was originally agreed to, which you state will be satisfactory. You may therefore proceed with the arrangements for this date.†

The Committee which is to work out the Manifesto, Program, and Constitution for submission to the Unity Conference — a committee of 6, 3 on each side — will meet in Chicago on the 20th. They have selected as their committee [Max] Bedacht, [Ludwig] Katterfeld, and [Abram] Jakira. Our committee I think should be [I.E.] Ferguson, you, and I. If this is agreeable to you we will have it so understood, although I suggest that you submit the matter to [South Slavic leader] Stankovich and [Polish leader] Kowalski for their approval.

I am planning to leave here Saturday night [May 8, 1920] for Cleveland and will work from there until the 17th or 18th, when I will come to Chicago.

You may send mail for me, after receipt of this letter, addressed to Mrs. Mary Niekel, 7913 Farrell Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, with an inside en-

velope marked “Rose.”

In regard to the signature to the article in reply to the “majority,” the only objection I have to it is the fact that it helps to create the impression that the controversy is between the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] and the CEC. This is the impression which the “majority” is seeking to create. It is turning it batteries on me as if the whole situation were an issue between me and the committee.

I understand from a letter from Comrade F. [Ferguson] that he added something to and changed my article. This is bad because it has been printed here in leaflet form and we will now have two different versions of the article — it will be worse if he modified the statement in regard to mass action and insurrection.

If you think there are important enough matters to warrant the trip, you might come from Detroit to Cleveland and meet me there Monday [May 10, 1920]. There is a boat running to Cleveland Monday morning and be in Cleveland by noon. It would not be a great expense and might help clear up some matters. You have my telephone and home address.

While in Detroit a District Organizer should be appointed to carry on the work of electing delegates to the District Convention. It is only one week to the District Convention in this district and unless something is done at once Detroit will not be represented in the convention. In meeting

†- The Joint Unity Convention bringing together the Communist Labor Party with the Ruthenberg-led “minority” faction of the CPA was held at the Wolfskeel Resort outside of Bridgman, Michigan from May 26-31, 1920.

with the comrades you can no doubt arrange to have them act at once in voting for electors and get some sort of representation to the District Convention, at least from the German, South Slavic, Polish, and some Russian units.

The stamps have been received.

Fraternally yours,

[C.E. Ruthenberg]
Executive Secretary.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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