
Report to the Communist International on the Joint Convention of May 26-31, 1920.

From the United Communist Party of America

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To the Executive Committee of the Communist International:—

At a joint convention, held May 26-31, 1920, was organized THE UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA. Two preliminary conventions were held, one of 32 delegates of the Communist Party, the other of 25 delegates of the Communist Labor Party (also one fraternal delegate). On May 27th the two conventions were joined.

Comrade Agursky, who presented a credential from the Executive Committee of the Communist International, with a mandate to help in the formation of a Communist Party in the United States, was seated as a fraternal delegate.

The Communist Labor delegates represented 4,525 members who have been reorganized on an underground basis since the government raids of January. As to the Communist Party there were 6,119 members who participated in the elections of delegates to the district conventions, which in turn elected the delegates to the national convention. Some of the members of the Lettish [Latvian], Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and Russian federations refused to take part in these elections.

It is estimated that this convention represented over 60% of the reorganized membership of the Communist Party.

Before the January raids, when over 3000 Communists were arrested on deportation or criminal charges, the two parties together had enrolled about 40,000 dues-paying members. Even then the work of organization was in the formative period, the definite break with the Socialist Party having taken place less than four months before the raids. Since January, reorganization has been going on in the face of constant arrests, with many of the active party workers in the jails and courts at different times, with some already deported and a few imprisoned for long terms. Scores are on trial or awaiting trial, the principal case at this time being that of 27 members of the Communist Labor Party (on trial for conspiracy to alter the existing form of government by force, violence, or other unlawful means, under the Illinois law).

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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