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**Letter to the Central Executive Committee  
of the Communist Party of America in New York  
from Alfred Wagenknecht, Executive Secretary  
of the United Communist Party in New York,  
November 3, 1920**

Published in *United Communist Party to the Third International on Unity*. [New York]:  
[United Communist Party], circa Nov. 20, 1920; pg. 3.

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TO THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Comrades:—

The following resolution on the subject of Communist unity in the United States has been adopted by the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party:

Communist unity is essential for the communist victory. the United Communist Party has always recognized this, and expressed this recognition in the following words in a unity resolution adopted at its convention [Unity: Bridgman, MI, May 26-31, 1920]:

“American capitalism is mobilizing all its forces to control the rising tide of working class revolt, and has particularly directed its powers of suppression against the communist movement.

“Under these circumstances, and in view of the fundamental unity of principles, all the communist elements should be united in one party, and the United Communist Party therefore calls upon the group still outside the united party to join it.”

We, the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party, mindful of our duty to unite the battlefield of the revolutionary workers in the United States, welcomed the endeavors of Comrade Linde [Samuel Agursky] who, in the name of the Executive Committee of the Third International, offered his services to bring about complete unity of the communist forces. We helped him in every way possible. We deeply regretted that the hostility of the CEC of the CP tot the achievement of unity caused Comrade Linde's [Agursky's] labors to fail of success. When this became apparent, we again reported to the Third International the situation relative to unity of the communist elements in the United States.

Meanwhile the Second Congress of the Third International had taken place [Petrograd and Moscow, July 19-Aug. 7, 1920], and the newly elected Executive Committee of that body, in compliance with the instructions of the Congress, issued an imperative mandate for communist unity in the United States.

Since the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party has now indicated a willingness to reverse its previous position and to comply with the mandate of the Executive Committee of the Third International,<sup>1</sup> we agree to a joint convention and appoint comrades X [Brown = Max Bedacht], Y ["James McGee" = ???], and Z [Flynn = Edward Lindgren] as our committee to act with a like committee of the Communist Party.

We empower them to make arrangements for a joint convention on the following basis:

1. In conformity with the decisions of the Second Congress [of the Comintern] regarding centralized party organizations; no autonomous groups or federations shall be allowed in the united party.

2. Only those members organized in the underground group form of organization shall be permitted to participate in the election of delegates to the joint convention.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference is to the letter of CPA Executive Secretary Charles Dirba to the UCP dated October 21, 1920.

3. The basis of representation at the joint convention shall be the same as the voting ratio established for American delegates by the Second Congress of the Communist International, namely: the ratio of six delegates for the UCP to four of the CP.

4. All the theses adopted by the Second Congress and the decisions of the Executive Committee of the Communist International shall constitute the basis for the deliberations of the joint convention.

5. In order to bring about unity by January 1st [1921], the time limit finally set by the Executive Committee of the Communist International, the convention must be held by that date.

With Communist Greetings,

*[Alfred Wagenknecht],*  
**Executive Secretary.**

**CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY.**

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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