
Statement to the Membership of the Communist Party of America by the CEC, April 24, 1922.†

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The CP of A is facing a period of expansion which requires the full cooperation of all vital Communist elements for the successful development of the American Communist movement. The CEC elected at the last convention [May 1921] underwent many changes during the strife within the organization. This strife was the result of the application of the [policies of the] Third Congress of the CI.‡ During the course of the application of these policies a situation has arisen within the party which caused a reawakening of the factional spirit which for years has done incalculable harm to the Party.

The Party convention having been postponed for several months in accordance with the instructions from the CI, we feel it to be necessary to make a move to abolish this factionalism, which, if permitted to grow until the Convention would seriously interfere with the success of the Party. Realizing the needs of unification, three members of the CEC, Lewis [William Weinstone], Griffith [Joseph Zack Kornfeder], and Green [as yet unidentified former Detroit District Organizer] have voluntarily submitted their resignations. In place of the three members resigning, Ballister [Robert Minor], Duffy [Alfred Wagenknecht], and Ward [Earl Browder] have been cooptated; this is an effort to draw into the committee additional

elements which can contribute to the unification of the Party.

In voluntarily resigning from the committee the withdrawing members have demonstrated a desire for harmony in the Party ranks. They give way to others in order to see the various elements share in the responsibility of Party leadership, and to enable them to help strengthen and consolidate the Party ranks. The withdrawing members will personally at the convention share fully in the responsibility of the work of the committee up to date. They feel that the reorganized committee, working for the welfare of the Party and in a spirit of revolutionary harmony can overcome the discord in the Party ranks. The CEC feels the comrades who voluntarily resigned have set before the membership an example of personal disinterestedness and Party devotion which if followed generally will quickly cement the unity of all Communist forces for the successful accomplishment of the great tasks that confront us.

The reorganization of the committee does not mean a change in the Party's policy on any of the questions which came to issue in the carrying out of the decisions of the Third Congress and the special instructions of the CI. Both those withdrawing and the new members cooptated have pledged themselves to complete cooperation on

†- The decision on reorganization of the CEC to make room for Minor, Wagenknecht, and Browder was made at the Monday, April 17 session of that body. This statement to the membership was signed at the next meeting of the group.

‡- Reference here is to the formation of the Workers Party of America as the "open" affiliate of the underground CPA. The forced participation of all Communist Party members in this new organization was viewed by a large segment of the party membership as a deadly breach of organizational security and it was this — among other issues — that prompted a major party split in the last part of 1921.

the basis of the policies which were put into effect by the CEC as constituted until today, which have been unreservedly upheld and commended by the CI. Upon the decisions of the Third Congress, which formed the basis of the CEC's answer to the appeal of the minority and the special "Theses on Legal Activities" sent to the CP of A by the CI, the CEC as now constituted takes its stand unqualifiedly, as did the CEC as constituted until today.

The reorganized CEC takes the Party responsibility at a time of great difficulties as well as boundless possibilities for the building up of a Communist Party that can serve the workers and stand at the head of their struggles. The CEC will be able to make the best use of the present possibilities only with the full and loyal support and cooperation of the entire Party membership. The reorganized CEC and the three resigning members ask the Party membership to give the central Party authority such loyal support and cooperation.

April 24th, 1922

Signed by:

James Ballister [Robert Minor]
 John M. Braun [Max Bedacht]
 James Cook [James P. Cannon]
 Duffy [Alfred Wagenknecht]
 Tom Elk [Ludwig Katterfeld]
 M. Green [former Detroit DO]
 A.C. Griffith [Joseph Zack Kornfeder]
 Lansing [Arne Swabeck]
 G. Lewis [William Weinstone]
 Morris [J. Wilenkin]
 A. Raphael [Alexander Bittelman]
 Edward Riley [Lithuanian Federationist]
 W. Ward [Earl Browder]
 L.C. Wheat [Jay Lovestone]

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