
First Convention of the Communist Party of America, Day 4 — Sept. 4, 1919.

by James O. Peyronnin

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Report Made by: James O. Peyronnin
Place Where Made: Chicago, Ill.
Date When Made: Sept. 11, 1919.
Period for Which Made: Sept. 4, 1919.

*Title of Case and Offense Charged
or Nature of Matter Under Investigation:*

**In Re: First Convention
“Communist Party of America,”
Chicago, Illinois.**

*Statement of Operations, Evidence Collected, Names and
Addresses of Persons Interviewed, Places Visited, Etc.:*

At Chicago.

Following is a detailed report of the 4th day session of the above mentioned convention:

Convention called to order at 9 am by Chairman A. Renner. Renner elected Chairman for the Day. [Meyer] Lunin of NY elected Vice-Chairman.

C.E. Ruthenberg, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, appeared before the body and read an additional portion of the Constitution which the committee had so far prepared. The constitution as proposed by the Majority [committee] is being acted upon by the body seriatim, and has been amended to some extent, that is the portion so far submitted, and as stated in report of September 3, 1919, copy of the Constitution will be secured and submitted to the Bureau, Washington, for their information.

Article 3, Section 5 of the Constitution as proposed by the [committee], reading as follows, was voted to be stricken out:

When any branch attains an average membership of over 500 for a period of 6 months it shall be divided into 2 or more branches in accordance with the decision of the State or District Executive Committee.

Article 3, Section 6 as follows:

All language branches shall join and become a part of the Federation of their language if such Federation exists.

Motion to strike out lost by 8 to 87 votes.

The chair [Renner] entertained 18 to 20 heated debates on these two sections.

Fannie Horowitz of the Finance Committee read off several names of delegates who had not as yet turned in their \$50.00 as provided by the Convention.

Following is the report of the Education Committee. Each section was acted upon seriatim.

The Committee on Education composed of the following: John Sungail, Joseph Kowalski, John Komorowsky, Solomon, Glauberman, and Irvin Klein recommend to the convention the following:

1. That a National Educational Bureau of 3 be elected by the National Committee of the Communist Party; that each State Committee and each Local Central Committee elect similar committees which carry on propaganda under the supervision of the National Educational Bureau.

2. That Schools of Communism be established under the direction of the National Educational Bureau for the following purposes:

- A. To teach the workers the principles of Communism.
- B. To conduct correspondence courses to reach those unable to attend these schools and supply teachers for study classes wherever possible.

C. To train comrades to be speakers and organizers.

3. That the official party publication carry articles serially to explain the principles of Communism.

4. That the National Educational Bureau shall constitute itself as a National Lecture Bureau, supply lecturers and speakers to the locals and route them; that the State Committees, Federation Committees, and Local Central Committees conduct similar lecture bureaus and furnish the National Educational Bureau with lists of their speakers from time to time; that the Local Educational Committee furnish the State Educational Bureau with a list of its speakers.

5. That appropriate books, pamphlets, and leaflets be printed together with such literature for free distribution as the various Educational Committees deem advisable.

6. That Young Peoples Communist Leagues and Children's Schools be organized wherever possible and their educational policies be under the supervision of the National Educational Bureau.

Chairman A. Renner then called upon the Manifesto and Program Committee for a report and on being advised by that committee that their report was not yet prepared, he stated as follows:

"I want to inform that committee that they have had ample time to make a report and that committee does not seem to realize the inconvenience they are causing this Convention, as some of the delegates have made arrangements to attend for only 3 or 4 days. I therefore urge the committee to submit their report before evening, if possible."

[A.A.] Rosenthal of Philadelphia stated that a certain element in the convention were holding caucuses (by action referring to the New York group), and were putting one over, and as Nicholas Hourwich of the Manifesto Committee mumbled something, *Rosenthal* remarked loudly, "yes, if you fellows want to admit, you'll tell them that you have been holding these caucuses."

It is evident, in the opinion of Employee, that the delegates elected on the Manifesto and Program Committee were chosen for that committee by that group of the Convention who are seeking to gain control, with special reference to the delegates from New York, Massachusetts, Pittsburgh, and New Jersey, and this has been manifested by the heated debates between the two factions.

Up to this time *Edward I. Lindgren* and *Morris Zucker* of Local Kings Co., NY, and *Henry M. Tichenor* of Local St. Louis, Mo., and *Irene Smith* of California, have withdrawn from the Convention on account of their opposition to the Russian Federations' control of the Convention. It has been ascertained that these 4 delegates are now seated at the "Communist Labor Party" Convention in session at 119 Throop St., IWW Hall.

I.E. Ferguson, Chairman of the Committee of 5 elected to confer with the delegates from the "Communist Labor Party" Convention regarding the amalgamation of the two bodies read the reply from the committee of the "Communist Labor Party" and copy of that communication is attached to the original copy of this report, marked Exhibit "B," pages 1, 2, 3.

Moved and seconded and carried that further action by the Convention regarding further reply to the "Communist Labor Party" committee be laid over until tomorrow, September 5, 1919.

As the Chairman [Renner] could not get any committees to submit reports, motion was made and carried that the convention adjourn to reconvene at 9 am, September 5, 1919. Time of adjournment, 12:30 pm.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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