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# **Membership Bulletin No. 1 - 1921**

## **of the United Communist Party**

### **[circa February 1, 1921]**

Mimeographed internal bulletin, specimen in Comintern Archive,  
RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 43, l. 53-54.

**(One to each Group — Read at next Meeting  
— then Destroy)**

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#### ***Recent CEC Decisions and Party News:***

- Husband and wife in separate groups must pay full dues each.
- Speakers who are party members shall not speak from non-party platforms except in case where party principles can be propagated, and then only by consent of the party.
- Comrade employed to gather data and statistics for agrarian work [Harold Ware].
- Communication received from III [Comintern] calling for immediate work among trade unions to secure affiliations for Red Trade Union International. Also advice from same source as to gathering information regarding the Negro question in the US.
- Young People's League secretary [Oliver Carlson] employed. Educational director employed.
- Convention number of official organ ordered printed in all languages in which the party has organization.

- Theses in Russian, Jewish [Yiddish], and South Slavic [Croatian] ordered printed.
- [Lenin's] *Infantile Sickness [of "Leftism" in Communism]* and *Proletarian Revolution [and the Renegade Kautsky]* ordered printed in English.
- International delegate of UCP [Karlis Janson (aka "Charley Scott")] reported upon Second Congress [of Comintern: July 19-Aug. 7, 1920] and situation in Russia in general. Returned with mandate for organization of Pan-American Bureau and Labor Union Bureau.
- CEC created the following departments at the head of each being placed 1 or 2 CEC members: Organization, YCP, Defense; Agrarian, Research, Propaganda; Editorial, Literature; Technical.
- Six months' membership in the Party shall be necessary before membership certificates are issued to comrades leaving this country.
- All such membership certificates not used within one month after receipt by member shall be returned to National Office.
- Expulsion from the Party can occur only after charges have been regularly preferred, trial had, and decision to that effect rendered.
- District Organizers instructed to make full collection of dues. Full returns for literature also ordered. Groups having literature "in storage" shall sell it immediately.
- Call for First Communist Saturday issued. Date: Saturday, February 26th [1921]. One day's wage from every Party member demanded. Intense propaganda among the unemployed planned.

- Every section of the Party ordered to arrange for an entertainment at once. Party needs finances to proceed with publication of literature.
- Series of 4 numbered unemployment leaflets planned. First is issued in 7 languages.
- All educational classes shall continue their studies upon their own initiative until such time as the Educational Dept. of the CEC can supply a program for the conduct of the work and lessons, but that no expense shall be attached to such work.
- Editorial, Educational, Organization Depts. reported to CEC.
- Decided to issue a small bulletin for propaganda among the farmers.
- In printing literature the CEC is guided by the needs of the movement; that all party members irrespective of their language affiliations distribute literature in all languages as the needs of the moment demand.
- Red Army cards, received from Germany, ordered distributed and sold at 25¢ each.
- All party members instructed to carry out the policy of the Party in regard to independent language federations, namely, that the Party groups be strengthened and increased in these federations with a view of taking over the propaganda machinery of these federations and eventually dissolving these federations.
- No discrimination of applicants for party membership who hold membership in fraternal organizations shall be made.
- Decided to reduce wages of all Party employees \$5.00 a week.

- Decided to pay CEC members who serve on the CEC away from their homes their actual extra expenses, not to exceed \$2.00 a day, however. Such extra expenses permitted only when voted by the CEC. To Bell [L.E. Katterfeld?], Altman [Alfred Wagenknecht?] extra expenses voted.<sup>1</sup>
- Affiliations are instructed to give Labor Union Bureau their fullest support, this whether the CP cooperates with the UCP in caucuses or not.
- Organization Department and YCL Secretary [Carlson] instructed to draft plan for the organization of the Young Communist League.
- Decided that the YCL of the UCP be represented at the International Congress of Communist Youth.
- All members receiving literature or communications of organization reports from Communist parties of other countries are instructed to send them to the National Office through regular Party channels.
- Standing order placed with parties of other countries for literature.
- CEC decided against publishing an article reported by the Editorial Dept. until full meeting of the committee. Thereupon, Flat [=???] and Adams [=???] made demand for balance of wages due them, stating that they intended resigning from the CEC and returning to their homes [in Chicago]. At the following session of the CEC the question of the resignations from the Editorial Dept. of Flat [=???] and Adams [=???] was made the first order of business. Flat [=???] was absent from meeting without excuse. Adams [=???] stated that he would under no circumstances further serve the Party in the Editorial

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<sup>1</sup> This relates to extra per diem for the two members of the CEC who were married with large families — Alfred Wagenknecht and L.E. Katterfeld. The precise identification of these two pseudonyms is tentative.

Dept. of the CEC. CEC thereupon decided that Flat [=???] and Adams [=???] be suspended from the CEC pending hearing of their case by a full CEC meeting. They were both instructed to attend the next full meeting of the CEC, and the CEC ruled the suspension from the CEC also meant suspension from all Party work and activities.

- Italian paper established and Italian organizer toured.
- Report of Educational-Propaganda Dept. Legal lecture bureau established. May Day program adopted. Tours arranged.
- Communication sent to the CP Convention, then in session, again inviting them to a unity convention upon basis of equal representation for the parties.
- Decided that Hotmer [=???], who attended the Unity Convention of the Independents and Communists in Germany, representing himself to be a delegate of the UCP of A, be suspended from the Party because he misrepresented his connection with the Party.
- Four additional pamphlets ordered printed.

**Minority and Majority Statement of  
CEC Members Regarding Per Diem for  
Party Workers Not Actually on the Road  
But Away from Home on Party Work.**

***Minority Statement:***

The members of the UCP were never informed that some of the Party workers (members of the CEC included) were getting from \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day on top of their regular wages even when not being on road for the Party.

We also knew nothing of this until we began to serve as members of the CEC.

Having refused to accept this extra remuneration, we have proposed at one of the meetings of the CEC to abolish the per diem for Party workers not actually on road for the Party.

The majority of the CEC rejected our action to this effect and carried a different decision. Against their decision we consider as our duty to protest for the following reasons:

1) We consider this extra per diem a camouflaged increase in wages in violation of our last Party Convention decision, by which the wages of Party workers are fixed by the Convention itself.

The practice of per diem payments for those not actually travelling for the Party was not brought to the attention of the Convention.

2) The present decision to consider each case of per diem remuneration individually instead of establishing a fixed rule for all Party workers leaves a possibility for favoritism and discrimination.

3) The fact of having big families is not an excuse for getting extra wages on top of those fixed by the Party Convention for married men.

4) The present financial situation of the Party is very grave.

We submit foregoing to the judgement of the membership.

*Adams [=??].*

*Flat [=??].*

### ***Majority Statement:***

In fixing the wages of Party workers, the Convention took cognizance of the fact that a distinction must and should be made between single (unmarried) and married workers. In doing so, it established that a married man had responsibilities that did not fall upon an unmarried man. True, the Convention made no distinction between men with large and men with small families, although a sliding scale of wages was recommended, which would have been the only FAIR method.

Several Party workers, including members of the CEC are compelled to live away from home. That is to say, since the decision of the Convention required that members of the CEC live in the city where the headquarters are located, it necessitated that these members either maintain two homes or remove their families to the headquarters.

The location of the headquarters of the Party can never be permanent. The reason for this is obvious. Hence it is not advisable in all

instances for men with large families to remove their families — nor is it always possible in the cases of families of little children. Hence, although living at the place of the headquarters, those Committeemen are living away from home and, to all practical purposes, are on the road. Men on the road are granted a per diem.

At a recent meeting of the CEC per diems were abolished for those not actually travelling as organizers, it being decided to consider each request for per diems on its individual merits.

Two committeemen having large families [Katterfeld, Wagenknecht] which they cannot move to town because of inability to find suitable quarters, are obliged to live apart from their families, or, in other words, to maintain two residences. In view of this fact, and in view of the fact that all wages have been reduced, the majority of the CEC decided to grant these two Committeemen *actual* per diem, not to exceed \$2.00 per day. (It may be stated that one of the minority members voted against having the pay of unmarried men reduced \$10 and of married men only \$5, in the belief that a single man, in fairness, was entitled to \$35 a week, while a man with 6 children [Katterfeld] should be able to get along on \$45 a week, although obliged by circumstances to keep up two homes.) Men living at home will have their per diem withdrawn at once.

Besides, every delegate to the Convention accepted per diem, and if it was not a violation of Party practice then, it is not now. It has always been generally understood that a comrade away from home on Party duty had the right to per diem because of added expenses.

*Duboff [Abram Jakira].*

*Altman [Alfred Wagenknecht].*

*Bell [L.E. Katterfeld?].*

*Williams [=??].*

*Grove [Israel Amter].*

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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