
**Letter to a Comrade in Moscow
regarding the 2nd National Conference of
the Communist Unity Committee
from Alexander Bittelman in New York,
March 12, 1921**

Handwritten document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 43, ll. 29-34.

March 12th, 1921.

Dear Comrade:—

The 2nd National Conference of the CUC is [done?]. It has reversed the situation and passed a number of important decisions, which I am going to give you the substance of in this letter.

The Situation.

The CP has already held its conventions, which approved fully the policies and tactics of the CEC regarding Unity. The convention has also adopted a new constitution, which makes the power of the ruling machine unlimited. On this ground a conflict is developing between the Russian Federation on the one hand, and the Lithuanians and Letts [Latvians] on the other hand. We have succeeded in getting into one Committee a group of comrades of the CP who occupy in their party an important strategic position.

As to the UCP, our propaganda is [appearing?] to be successful beyond all expectations. There was recently a district convention in New York of the UCP which has adopted a resolution on Unity practically endorsing our platform. The district organizations of the UCP in Pennsylvania and Chicago will soon follow suit. By the way, the two Chicago-men on the CEC of the UCP ["Adams" and "Flat"] have been expelled from the Committee and suspended from the party.

The American Agency of the 3rd International has already begun functioning, and here is the result: the UCP-man on the agency [Karl "Charley" Janson] sticks to the machine of the UCP; the CP-man in the Agency [Louis Fraina], though attempting to conciliate the fighting Central Committees, is practically following the CEC of the CP. And the third man, the so-called impartial chairman [Sen Katayama], is helplessly floundering between the two. The result is that this Agency is doing absolutely nothing to bring about the unification of the two parties.

We have also learned that the "Proletarian Party" as well as the Industrial Socialist League have adopted the "theses" and "21 points" and applied for admission to the 3rd International. This, no doubt, created a new situation as far as Unity is concerned.

<illeg.> Decisions.

We are going to demand of the two Central Committees that conventions be called *in every district* to discuss the situation and pass resolutions on Unity. In the UCP, we shall advise the various district conventions to endorse the Unity resolution of the New York district, which accepts our platform on federations. On the CP, we shall advise the membership to adopt one platform, and also demand the suspension of the new clause in the constitution that confers upon the CEC the right to appoint all party officials, including Section Organizers.

We have entered into conferences with the "Proletarian Party" for the purpose of getting their views on Unity.

• • • • •

In general our position is very strong, which can be seen even from the fact that none of the Central Committees has as yet dared to expel any of our people.

Our future tactics will, of course, depend in a large measure upon the attitude of the *Comintern* toward the CUC. I will ask you, therefore, to make haste with your report, and communicate with us as quickly as possible.

I sent you with Delion [Louis Hendin] an address for cables. Did you get it? To make sure, I am sending you now again [our?] address for cablegrams:

Mr. Solotareff,
171 Linden Ave.,
Brooklyn, NY.

I would advise you to send us a cable even if you have as yet no official information. Certainly, you should dispatch to us a letter immediately.

Regards to all from all,

Your,

A. Raphael [Alexander Bittelman].
[Secretary.]

Edited by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · April 2012 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.