
The CUC to the American Agency of the CI [An Open Letter — April 17, 1921]

Published in *Communist Unity* [New York], v. 1, no. 7 (April 20, 1921), pp. 2-3.
Exact date determined from document content. Note that the pages are scrambled on reel
3 of the *Records of the CPUSA* microfilm (RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 44, ll. 26, 23).

To the American Agency of
the Communist International.

Dear Comrades:—

Before proceeding to the actual business on hand we want to express our sincere appreciation of and satisfaction with the fact that you succeeded in securing from the Communist International the full and unlimited power to create in America one, single Communist party. We appreciate the significance of your mandate, for the reason that only a body vested with unlimited powers is capable of coping effectively with the particular situation prevailing at present in our movement. And at the same time we cannot refrain from expressing our satisfaction with the fact that almost all of your recommendations for the achievement of unity, except the organizational part, practically coincide with the position taken by the Communist Unity Committee in its first appeal to the Communists of America and in its memorandum to the Executive Committee of the Communist International. You possess therefore all the requisites for a successful beginning; you have the right basis of principle and the full power to act. What you need for a successful completion of your, no doubt, difficult task is determination, determination, and determination.

The organizational or technical part of your recommendation for unity is such as to make the success of your mandate dependent entirely upon the good will of the two Central Committees. Not only the composition of the Joint Convention or its deliberations (which, if the two Central Committees would have their way, could result, at

best, only in formal unity), but even the very coming into session of the convention is at the mercy of the cliques controlling at present the machinery of the two parties. This makes the prospects for unity in the immediate future altogether uncertain, unless you can muster sufficient courage and strength of will to break the demoralizers of the movement by driving them either INTO the united party that is to come into existence or OUT OF IT.

It is not for us to tell you how your mandate has been met by the two ruling cliques. The CP machine has replied to your communication of April 4, 1921, with subterfuge and evasion. Not only have they refused to commit themselves definitely to your propositions, but to the evasive reply that they did submit they failed to attach the seal of their organization and the signature of their officials. And though the CEC of the CP has appointed a representative to the Organization Committee called for by the conditions of your mandate, that representative has not as yet consented to sign the call for the Joint Convention.

You did not fare much better with the CEC of the UCP. Officially they have accepted your recommendations, but unofficially they will put all kinds of obstacles in the way of unity. They neither believe in unity, nor do they want it. While you are engaged in carrying out your mandate for unity, both Central Committees are making hasty preparations for sending new delegates to the 3rd Congress of the Communist International without waiting for the Joint Convention, thus actually violating the mandate given to you by the Communist International. Is not this sufficient and conclusive proof that the two ruling cliques do not intend to obey your mandate and to follow your instructions?

The situation calls for deeds of a decisive and determined nature. You must be prepared to act in the interests of Unity, as your mandate actually empowers you to do, over the heads of the two ruling cliques. But for this you need an organ of expression, since you cannot expect the official party press to be at your service. And since the official party machines are hostile to your efforts and to your very existence, you shall have to have the service and cooperation of an organized group of comrades of both parties to take up your slogans and instructions and carry them into execution.

The Communist Unity Committee of America (CUC of A) is ready and willing to perform this service. It is perfectly well qualified for this task. The CUC, as you are well aware, represents a solidly or-

ganized bi-party caucus of influential comrades in both organizations. It has an organ — the *Communist Unity* — reaching practically all the members of the two parties. You can use our caucus as well as our paper. Both are at your complete and full disposal.

But in order that this offer of ours be of effective use before the coming Congress of the Communist International, you must avail yourself of it immediately. It is already the 17th of April. The Joint Unity Convention shall have to be over by the middle of May, if the two Central Committees are to be denied the opportunity of declaring your efforts a failure and sending new delegations to reopen the fight in Moscow. You have, consequently, only 4 weeks in which to perform your task. If you act quickly and decisively, in spite of the time you have already lost in indecision, you may still be successful.

Yours for Communist Unity,

*The Communist Unity Committee
of America.*

Edited by Tim Davenport

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