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**On the Situation in  
Latvian Branches of former CPA:  
Report to the Organization  
Department of the Central Executive  
Committee of the unified CPA,  
July 21, 1921**

by “Dan Collins”<sup>1</sup>

Copy in the CPUSA's Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 63, ll. 3-4.

**To the CEC of the CPA. (Organization Dept.)**

**ON THE SITUATION IN  
LETTISH BRANCHES  
(of former CP).**

The party work and discipline is demoralized completely in the former CP Lettish [Latvian] branches and also to a large extent in the 2 former UCP branches that split away last winter from the CP and joined the UCP. The only active Lettish [Latvian] branches are at present the 2 original Lettish branches of the UCP.

The following are the main causes of this situation:

1) Lack of discipline, inherited from the SP, where this was a blessing, where distrust of party officials and refusal to carry out orders and decisions of the National Executive Committee was cultivated and encouraged.

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<sup>1</sup> “Dan Collins” was the pseudonym of a short-lived District Organizer of the unified Communist Party of America for District 1 [Boston]. A Latvian federationist and former member of the old CPA, “Collins” was soon expelled as part of the bitter faction fight which swept the party which culminated in the split of the so-called “Central Caucus,” replaced as Boston DO by another member of the Latvian Federation, the ex-UCPer Boodman “R. Robins.”

2) The existence of 2 parties, where members could resign from one and be welcomed for this in the other party, where the old SP spirit was often cleverly cultivated from the opposing party.

3) The split in Lettish [Latvian] Federation (Sept. 1920), where most of Boston membership (part of NY joined it later) declared the CEC of the whole Federation recalled and elected a new CEC for the whole Federation. The slogan of "Federation CEC elected by a referendum vote, instead of one elected by the Federation Convention" carried the day. The nationalistic weakness, to help in reconstruction work in bourgeois Latvia (helping to organize cooperative factories and shops there) was another contributing factor in this split.

4) The hate against the present DO ["Dan Collins"] (who was the Secretary of Lettish [Latvian] Federation called the Federation Convention, condemned and ridiculed the idea of a CEC in an illegal organization elected by referendum vote and called the advocates of nationalistic cooperatives "revolutionaries in words, but reactionaries in deeds." Who as DO tried to enforce party discipline and declared the referendum-cooperative elements have by their action placed themselves outside the party.

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The Lettish [Latvian] Federation CEC was instructed in Jan. 1921 to reorganize those groups that wanted to return to the party. They were too lenient and as a result nearly all the former members (outside of the ones that joined the UCP) returned. Since then the defeated leaders assumed a "we will show them now what we can do" attitude. The result of this is seen in the resolutions and charges submitted herewith, slandering of party officials, not a penny on different voluntary contribution stamps and lists, joint meetings of group captains of 3 and 5 branches in spite of orders to the contrary from the District Committee, divulging identity of party officials, turning down motion to contribute \$1000.00 to the Party (out of \$7777.89 cash on hand in legal organization) after Unity Convention [Woodstock, NY: May 15-28, 1921], exempting their wives from paying dues without good cause, continuing to slander DO ["Collins"] after the accusations were declared unfounded by the District Committee,

communicating all kinds of foolish accusations to other party units and members, and even playing on the nationalistic prejudices of some members, stating that there are a bunch of Jews in the CEC, for BUSINESS, of course.

As stated before, this spirit was artificially cultivated to a large extent from some members of the former UCP. NOW, AFTER UNITY IS ACCOMPLISHED, IS THE PROPER TIME TO CALL A HALT. IN THIS THE SD ORGANIZER ["R. Robins"-Boodman] FULLY AGREES with me.

I gave instructions to the SD#1 organizer ["Robins"-Boodman] to investigate as to the rehashed "charges" and report at the next SD Committee meeting. (See constitution on discipline). I intend to demand that the guilty party be expelled, unless I receive instructions from the CEC to the contrary. Other cases will follow this one.

If the CEC agrees with me, it would be advisable to give instructions to the District and SD Committees, that expulsion is not too much for violators of party discipline, so that the respective committees would know that the CEC fully approves the course.

If not, the situation will grow every day. Perhaps reorganization will be even necessary, to get rid of the former leaders and allow the sincere members to do positive instead of negative work.

The old spirit, inherited from the SP, must be broken, and this, I believe, is the proper time.

*"D. Collins" [=??].*

July 21, 1921.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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