
The New NEC Meets:

Report of the Meeting of the National Executive Committee, Socialist Party — Chicago, July 26-27, 1919.

by Louis C. Fraina

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The newly-elected National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party — meeting in spite of the sabotage of the party bureaucracy — has fulfilled the revolutionary expectations of the members who placed it in power.

The new NEC has declared that the Socialist Party must become *the Communist Party of the United States*. It reinstates all expelled or suspended comrades.

The new NEC urges the party membership to elect *Left Wing delegates to the Emergency Convention at Chicago, August 30* [1919].

The new NEC requests the cooperation of the National Council of the Left Wing Section Socialist Party, and its official organ, *The Revolutionary Age*.

These acts are historic. They assure the formation of the Communist Party of the United States. *All decisions were unanimous.*

The NEC met Saturday morning at the Bradley Hall, Chicago. Present: from District 1 — Louis C. Fraina and Edward I. Lindgren; District 2 — Fred Harwood, Marguerite Prevey, C.E. Ruthenberg; from District 3 — William Bross Lloyd; from District 4 — none; from District 5 — L.E. Katterfeld and H.M. Wicks. Eight members were present, constituting a majority and a quorum of the whole committee.

Comrade Katterfeld called the meeting to order. Chairman: Katterfeld; Secretary, A. Wagenknecht.

Harwood and Katterfeld were elected a committee to tabulate the vote on the elections. They reported that the 8 members present were duly elected with a vote so large as to dispose of the lying charge of fraud, as were: District 1 — Nicholas I. Hourwich; District 3 — Dennis E. Batt and John Keracher; District 4 —

Dan Hogan, Mary R. Millis, and Pat Nagel; District 5 — Kate [Sadler] Greenhalgh. The committee further reported that Louis C. Fraina, John Reed, C.E. Ruthenberg, and A. Wagenknecht, were elected overwhelmingly as International Delegates and Kate Richards O'Hare as International Secretary.

A committee was elected to demand of Executive Secretary Adolph Germer to turn over the National Headquarters to the new NEC and appear at its sessions. This demand was presented in writing to Germer, who refused.

At the afternoon session, the following motion was adopted: "That we declare the office of National Executive Secretary vacant, inasmuch as the present incumbent violates his functions by refusing to tabulate the vote on referendums expressing the will of the membership, and refuses to recognize the regularly-elected NEC." A. Wagenknecht was elected to act as temporary secretary until the convention of August 30.

Motion: "that the Massachusetts and Michigan state organizations be reinstated in the party, and that the suspension of the Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, South Slavic, Hungarian, Lettish [Latvian], and Ukrainian Socialist Federations be revoked.

This means that these expelled Left Wing organizations can elect regular delegates to the Emergency Convention; where this is impossible, suspended and expelled comrades must organize Left Wing organizations independent of the party and elect contesting delegates.

The NEC condemned the expulsions and suspensions perpetrated by state and local organizations, and demanded reinstatement. It calls upon members

to purchase convention assessment stamps; money from this source not to be sent to the old NEC but held by the State Secretaries and given to the convention delegates.

Plans were made to raise money to defray extra cost of the delegates; all members are urged to contribute, and the Yipsels are asked to cooperate.

The new NEC decided to assume full control of the Emergency Convention. A committee of 3 consisting of Ruthenberg, Harwood, and Fraina, was elected to draft a declaration of the issues before the convention. The declaration, unanimously adopted, declared that the issues were not comprised in party democracy against party autocracy, but of revolutionary proletarian Socialism against moderate petty bourgeois Socialism, and affirmed: "*Out of the Emergency Convention must come the Communist Party of the United States.*" (This declaration was incorporated in a final declaration — published in full elsewhere in this issue.)

State Secretaries on motion were urged not to purchase dues stamps, unless absolutely necessary, in which even they can purchase regular party stamps from Temporary Secretary Wagenknecht. (This does not include expelled and suspended organizations,

which will buy stamps from the National Council of the Left Wing.)

Several motions were passed to prevent the old NEC from retaining control of party property.

Motion: "That we recognize the National Council of the Left Wing Section, Socialist Party, organized at the National Left Wing Conference, June 21-24 [1919], and its official organ, *The Revolutionary Age*, as an organized expression of the revolutionary sentiments of the party, and that we request their cooperation." Unanimously adopted.

A committee of 3, consisting of Katterfeld, Fraina, and Wicks, was elected to draft a final declaration to the party. The declaration, after slight amendments, was unanimously adopted. (Printed below.)

After discussion of organization problems, a committee of 3, consisting of Katterfeld, Wagenknecht, and Harwood, was elected to bring in an organization report to the next session of the NEC, August 28 [1919], in Chicago.

The final act of the NEC was to express its confidence in the revolutionary spirit of the membership, which would align the party with the new International.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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