
Parleys Fail to Effect Fusion of Communists:

Both Groups Stand Pat on Original Declarations — Chicago is Adopted as Seat

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CHICAGO, Sept. 5 [1919].— That there will be no fusion of the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party, at least in their conventions here, was definitely settled by both bodies yesterday.

The Communist Party convention in its last answer to the others stood pat on the proposition that only as individual delegates and not as a body would any of the CLP be admitted to their field. Their statement, in part, said:

“We appeal to your delegates to act on their individual judgment, not in a false sense of loyalty to an accidental grouping in a body which represents no membership organization. Some of your delegates belong with us by clear mandate of their membership, and they must realize their responsibility in assuming at this crucial time to function against the Communist Party.”

CLP Stands Pat.

Whereupon the CLP declared themselves pat, too, on their invitation for the two conventions to join in an informal session; announced that their offer for union stands open, absolved themselves by stating that they had done everything possible to bring the two parties together, and is now planning to get out a statement to the Communist organizations of the country.

A considerable struggle took place in the Communist Party convention yesterday morning [Sept. 4, 1919] over the question of whether any City Central Committee would have the right to review the expulsion of a branch of a language federation.

The question at issue was almost negligible in practical effect. But so jealous are the Russians of the least suspicion of infringement of their autonomy that they fought teeth and nail to defy the City Central Committees the right to pass in review any action of theirs, even when such right carried no final action with it.

As C.E. Ruthenberg said, "the Russians preach centralization, but don't mean it when it applies to them."

Accusation rankles.

So badly did this accusation rankle that some of the russians broke their iron discipline for the occasion and voted with the English-speaking element, thereby carrying the point — a small one — against the federations.

Another division among the Russians took place, this time a sharp one, on the question of where the capitol of the Communist Party is to be — New York or Chicago. N.I. Hourwich, of New York, too fond of the metropolis to relish the idea of moving away from it, delivered a plea for New York.

"If we are to fight capitalism, remember that the headquarters of capitalism is Wall Street. The Communist Party should, therefore, be near Wall Street.

Stoklitsky Takes Issue.

Alexander Stoklitsky, who with Hourwich shares the leadership in the convention, lives in Chicago and declared that capitalism centers about the stockyards as much as in Wall Street.

"Are we fighting cows or capitalism?" Hourwich interjected. The New York delegates voted solidly for their own city, but the rest of the country swamped it and Chicago remains the Communist Party capital.

Parts of the program of the Communist Party adopted read:

"The Communist Party is fundamentally a party of action."

"Participation in parliamentary campaigns, which in the general struggle of the proletariat is of secondary importance, is for the general purpose of agitation and is a means of emphasizing the political character of the proletarian struggle."

“Nominations for public office and participation in elections are limited to municipal councils, state legislatures and national Congress, Mayor, Governor, and President.”

“The uncompromising character of the class struggle must be maintained under all circumstances. The Communist Party, accordingly, in campaigns and elections and in all other activities, shall not cooperate with groups or parties not committed to the revolutionary class struggle, such as the Socialist Party, Labor Party, Non-Partisan League, People’s Council, municipal ownership leagues, etc.”

“The Communist Party shall make a great industrial struggle of the working class its major campaign in order to develop an understanding of the strike in relation to mass action and the overthrow of capitalism.”

The Communist Labor Party convention in the IWW Hall also had a heated tussle, but there it was on the election of a National Executive Committee.

The convention had elected L. Katterfeld, Marguerite Prevey, John Carney, A. Bilan, and Ludwig Lore. On the announcement of the result, John Reed, Ben Gitlow, Edward Lindgren, Morris Zucker, all of New York, joined in an attack on Ludwig Lore as unfit by principles to hold office in a communist party and therefore a bar to union with the Communist Party.

So energetic were their attacks that the convention held a new election and in the absence of Ludwig Lore, who had already left for New York, elected Katterfeld, Bilan, John Carney, [Max] Bedacht, and Lindgren.

Both conventions hope to round up their business and adjourn. Many of the delegates have already returned home today.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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