
The First CEC Meeting of the United Communist Party.

Unsigned report published as "CEC Meeting" in *The Communist* [UCP], v. 1, no. 1 (June 12, 1920), pg. 2.
It is highly likely that the author of this article was the publication's editor, C.E. Ruthenberg.

Immediately after the convention the CEC of the united party went into session. The spirit of the new organization showed itself in the vigor and comprehensiveness with which the CEC began its work. One member made the comment that more decisions of highest importance to the organization were made by this committee within two hours than had been made by the CEC of the Communist Party in all its eight months of existence.

The first task was the determination of districts and appointment of organizers. Then the election of officers of the national organization, on the convention plan that the CEC members should be composed, as far as possible, of active party workers, each one to take charge of some special department of the work.

The districts are as follows (subject to modification upon recommendation of the District Committees):

District No. 1 — New England states; Boston the center.

District No. 2 — New York state to Syracuse; Connecticut; northern New Jersey to Trenton; Panama, Puerto Rico. New York City the center.

District No. 3 — Eastern Pennsylvania; southern New Jersey; Delaware; Virginia; Maryland; District of Columbia. Philadelphia the center.

District No. 4 — Western Pennsylvania; West Virginia; New York state west of Syracuse. Pittsburgh the center.

District No. 5 — Ohio; Kentucky and states south. Cleveland the center.

District No. 6 — Michigan; Indiana, except Lake County. Detroit the center.

District No. 7 — Northern Illinois; Lake County, Indiana; Wisconsin; Minnesota; Iowa; North and South Dakota. Chicago the center.

District No. 8 — Missouri; Kansas; southern Illinois; Nebraska; Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana. Kansas City now and later St. Louis as center.

District No. 9 — Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming; southern Idaho. Denver as center.

District No. 10 — California, Nevada; Hawaii. San Francisco as center.

District No. 11 — Oregon, Washington; northern Idaho; Alaska. Portland as center.

The appointment of organizers was, for the most part, temporary, it being impossible to communicate with several whose names were under consideration.

The list of party officials, some combined in the same persons, was agreed upon as follows: Secretary, Treasurer, Party Editor and Associates, Education Director, Technical and Business Director, Defense Director, National Organizers, Auditing Committee.

Executive Secretary: Meyer [Alfred Wagenknecht]; **Editor:** Damon [C.E. Ruthenberg]; **Associate Editors**, with special assignments to various publications: Brown [Max Bedacht], Caxton [Edgar Owens??], Dawson [James P. Cannon]; **National Organizers:** Flynn [Edward Lindgren]

and Fisher [I.E. Ferguson]. **Education Directors:** the Editor and Associates; **Auditing Committee:** Dawson [Cannon] and Damon [Ruthenberg].

Appointments were made of foreign language editors and organizers, these to serve temporarily until national language conferences are held. It was agreed that all official papers, in all languages, should be named *The Communist*, all to be issued bi-weekly and to be of uniform size [approximately 8 x 11 inches]. Also, the leading editorials will appear in all languages.

Careful consideration was given to the situation as to each language group, but final decisions were delayed for the most part until consultation could be had with the members of these groups. In several instances, however, immediate arrangements were made for publication of language literature and for work of organization, including the language groups not heretofore represented in the Communist organizations, like the Finns.

Wages of national officials were fixed at \$50 [per week] for married men, \$40 for single men, with per diem of \$3 and \$2 respectively while on road.

Organizers who can speak languages other than that of the group to which they have been specially assigned are instructed to assist in the work of the other language groups.

The location of national headquarters was left to the decisions of the CEC from time to time.

The following motion is to be carefully considered by those active in the work of Communist legal defense: "that legal defense be strictly controlled as to policy and finance by the party organization; that committees of delegates be constituted into organizations for raising defense funds, these delegates to be sent from the party branches;

but that all defense expenditures shall be made only upon approval of the CEC, the Executive Secretary, or the Defense Director; that existing committees shall be reorganized in conformity with this decision; that defense organizations render financial report at least once a month to the national office through regular party channels; that funds shall be held by the treasurers of these defense organizations subject to draft by the national organization; that all pending Communist cases shall be handled without regard to the split in the CP.

A motion was carried that the 75¢ dues rate shall begin July 1st.

An organization stamp was ordered at 50¢.

The International Secretary was instructed to notify the Secretary of the Amsterdam Sub-Bureau [of the Communist International] as to the Communist Party situation in this country; that the former Pan-American Provisional Bureau has split in three parts, and that the UCP proposes to proceed with the preliminary organization of the Pan-America Sub-Bureau. The International Secretary and the two Delegates were named a committee for the purpose of establishing this sub-bureau.

It was decided to issue 20,000 copies of the Program in pamphlet form at once; also to issue the Program in foreign languages at once, according to requisition. Lenin's *State and Revolution* is to be published as soon as possible. The publication of the Boston testimony of I.E. Ferguson as a booklet was referred to the editorial staff.

Arrangements were made for representation of the UCP at the coming congress of the Communist International.†

A committee was elected to make complete investigation of certain "spy" charges which have

†- Edward Lindgren was dispatched to Moscow to attend the Second Congress of the Comintern, but he does not seem to have arrived until around the first of August. He joined former Communist Labor Party members John Reed and Alexander Bilan, who were accredited delegates. Eadmonn MacAlpine was also a CLP/UCP delegate to this Congress; it is not clear whether he was already in Moscow with Reed or Bilan or whether he travelled late with Lindgren.

appeared in the press.†

Special district organization conventions are to be held as soon as possible, the preliminary arrangements to be handled by the Executive Secretary and the National and District Organizers.

It was agreed that the *Voice of Labor* should be a party paper, and that each issue should contain the notation that it is published by the UCP. The *Voice of Labor* and *The Communist* are to be published alternately, one each week; also *The Class Struggle* is to be issued bi-monthly.‡

It was moved to request certain friends of Comrade Debs to inform him as to the party situation.

No division of the party shall issue leaflets, pamphlets, or papers without the approval of the CEC.

The Editorial Board was instructed to prepare a special prospectus outlining plans for the education of party workers and organizers.

Many other matters, of an executive nature, were considered.

†- This probably relates to Santeri Nuorteva rather than Louis Fraina.

‡- The other "official" English language party weekly was the legal paper *The Toiler* (formerly *The Ohio Socialist*). During this interlude, the Duluth, Minnesota legal weekly *Truth* does not seem to have been a UCP-owned publication, although it had previously published under the banner of the CLP and continued to serve as an agitational organ for the party. The theoretical journal *The Class Struggle* terminated publication with its Nov. 1919 issue and was never produced by the UCP.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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