
Statement to the Delegates of the Communist Party Conventions by the Delegates of Local Kings Co., NY [Sept. 3, 1919]†

Published as “Kings Bolts Communist Convention” in
Communist Labor Party of America: Official Report of the Chicago Convention.
(Cleveland, OH: Communist Labor Party of America, n.d. [c. Sept. 15, 1919]), pg. 2.
Copy in Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 5, l. 17.

To the Delegates of
the Communist Party Convention.

Comrades:

The Delegates from Local Kings County, NY, were instructed by their membership to leave the Communist Party Convention should it develop that the Russian Federations, acting as an autonomous group within the convention, were to dominate and control the movement.

Events have proven conclusively to us that this is not a genuine Communist Party; it is merely an attempt on the part of the Russian Federations to enlarge their organization and increase their power under the guise of a camouflage Communist Party.

We do not question the sincerity of the Russian Federations; we fully appreciate the strength of their organization; but we most emphatically condemn the dictatorial control of their Executive Committee over their membership — a control which it now exercises over this Convention; a control which does not hesitate to expel branches when they dare disagree with the Executive Committee; a control which will not hesitate to expel

and even disrupt the Communist Party if the rank and file dare act contrary to its wishes.

The Russian Federations are dominated by a revolutionary chauvinism, as harmful to the working class movement of America as American chauvinism is to the working class movement in Russia. The leaders of the Russian Federations are obsessed with the ideal that they, and they alone, are the only true Bolsheviks in America; that it is their mission to guide and control the revolutionary movement here and elsewhere, or it will perish.

We need and we welcome the advice and support of our Russian comrades, but we refuse to place them on a pedestal and worship them. We want to meet them, to work with them, but on a basis of equality, of comradeship. If we are not sufficiently revolutionary for them let them teach us, but we refuse to let them dominate us.

The leaders of the Russian Federations oppose unity with the Communist Labor Party Convention on the ground that it contains Centrist elements. And yet they sit in the same convention with Menshevik groups from Michigan and elsewhere. The Real reason for their opposition to unity is their determination to control the

† — According to the minutes of the gathering, Edward Lindgren and Morris Zucker read this statement to the Communist Labor Party convention and were seated as delegates during the afternoon session of September 3, 1919.

majority in this convention. Fundamentally their tactics are governed by a deep-seated suspicion of the revolutionary integrity of the English-speaking elements.

A real Communist Party cannot issue forth from this convention, for a party that is built on the principle that the rank and file is to be disregarded is one that cannot last. The whole convention is built upon dickers, deals, and compromises. Every little while caucuses are held, the Executive Committee lays down the law, and the delegates vote as per instruction and according to slate. Now a deal is made with the simon pure political actionists of Michigan to squelch the New York delegation; then a dicker is made with the New York delegation to put the skids under the Michigan group. One day the Russian Federations would rather hang than compromise with the Communist Labor Party Convention; the next day they reverse themselves because of a threatened bolt of the English-speaking delegates, which would remove the last vestige of genuineness from the camouflaged Russian Federation Communist Party.

The rank and file of Local Kings County wants the Russian comrades in a Communist Party, but with the same rights and privileges, and the same duties and responsibilities, as any other membership, regardless of nationality. Because we are against the Executive Committee Russian Federation control of the Communist Party, we hereby withdraw from this Convention.

*Edward Lindgren,
Morris Zucker.*

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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