
Letter to the American Agency of the Comintern from the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party in New York, January 17, 1921.

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 240.

New York, January 17, 1921.

To the American Agency of the
3rd Communist International

Dear Comrades:—

Acknowledging your mandate to execute the unity order of the Executive Committee of the 3rd International, we the Central Executive Committee of the United Communist Party of America herewith acknowledge all documents concerning...negotiations between our organization and the Communist Party.

From these documents you will learn that the United Communist Party found it impossible to get correct membership figures from the Communist Party. Thus it became clear that it was impossible to accomplish unity on the basis of proportional representation.

Eager to obey the order of the Executive Committee of the 3rd International to unite the communist forces in the United States, the United Commu-

nist Party proposed a unity convention on the basis of equal representation. This alone can break the deadlock.

A close study of the documents and the situation will lead you to the same conclusions.

We consider the spirit of the order of the Executive Committee of the Third Communist International to be — UNITE! — and we denounce the insistence of the leaders of the Communist Party on the execution of the letter as a subterfuge behind which they want to hide their determination to prevent unity.

Confident that you desire to serve the Communist International by uniting the communist forces in America, we submit the matter to you and stand ready to carry out your decisions.

Yours for the Communist International and for the communist unity in the United States.

Central Executive Committee,
United Communist Party of America.

Executive Secretary [Alfred Wagenknecht].

†- The American Agency (AA) was a three member committee of the Comintern consisting of Karlis "Charley" Janson (ex-UCP), Louis C. Fraina (ex-CPA), and Sen Katayama (non-affiliated). The primary task of the CI-funded committee was to expedite the formation of Communist Parties throughout the Americas. The AA also attempted to broker the unification of the two feuding American Communist Parties but ultimately did not have the ability to make a decision and cause the participants to comply due to the fuzziness of its mandate and the lack of unified support in Moscow. The AA was finally ordered disbanded by the Comintern towards the end of 1921, its assets to be turned over to the Communist Party of America. Louis Fraina refused to comply with this instruction, however, absconding to Central America with the CP's funds, amounting to thousands of dollars. The CPA was left in dire financial straits, approaching bankruptcy.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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