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# Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America: New York City — Oct. 21, 1922.

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Present at meeting: [George] Ashkenuzi, [Elmer] Allison, [Alex] Bittelman, [Louis] Engdahl, [Benjamin] Glassberg, Herschky, [Bob] Minor, Nastievsky, [Ludwig] Lore, [Bill] Kruse, and [C.E.] Ruthenberg.

Comrade Lore elected chairman.

The Secretary [Ruthenberg] submitted a recommendation that an Administrative Council of 7 members be elected to carry on the Party work between meetings of the CEC.

*Motion carried*, that an Administrative Council of 7 members be elected.

Comrades Allison, Ashkenuzi, Bittelman, Engdahl, Lore, Lindgren, and Ruthenberg elected.

*Motion carried*, that the CEC meet at least once in 6 weeks.

## ***Liberator.***

The Secretary reported that *The Liberator* was about to suspend publication and that arrangements could be made for the Party to take same over.

*Motion carried*, that the Party take over *The Liberator*; that the business management be carried on by the present force in the National Office under the direction of Comrade Allison; that Comrade Minor be placed in editorial charge and that he work with the present editorial staff for 2 months in order to maintain the general character of the magazine and the good will of the present subscribers; that Comrade Ruthen-

berg be appointed to carry on the negotiations and that legal ownership and control be secured by him for the Party.

## **Literature Department.**

Comrade Allison submitted the following recommendations:

1. That the publication, sale, and distribution of all English literature of the Party be centralized in the National Office, and that business be carried on with the branches directly, the district offices to be informed of sales in their district.

2. That the Party Branches be instructed to elect literature agents with whom the National Office will do business.

3. That instructions be sent to the Branches outlining methods of conducting literature sales at meetings and all gatherings.

4. That business with branches be conducted as nearly as possible on a cash basis.

5. That the Literature Department endeavor to secure sales-agents aside from branch literature agents to work upon a commission basis for both *The Worker* and literature.

6. That the sale and distribution of literature from the Comintern be centralized through the National Office. Foreign language literature to be sold by the Federations.

7. That all Federations maintaining literature departments shall include in their advertising lists the English Party literature.

8. That the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg]

conduct a survey of the literature of the federations with a view of ascertaining its character and the extent.

*Motion carried*, that the recommendations be adopted.

### **Agenda of the Convention.**

The Political Committee submitted the following agenda for the convention:

1. Economic and Political developments in the United States — The Labor Party.
2. The Program of the WP.
3. The Workers Party and the International.
4. Our Industrial Policy.
5. Defense of Class War Prisoners.
6. The Party Press — A Daily *Worker*.
7. The Party Organization.
8. The Young Workers League.
9. Soviet Russia and the American Workers.
10. Educational Work of the Party.
11. The Cooperative Movement.
12. Election of the Central Executive Committee.

*Motion carried*, that the agenda be approved.

Communications were read from the Finnish Executive Committee, Local Superior, Wis., and Waukegan, Ill., Finnish Branch making recommendations in regard to the convention.

*Motion carried*, that we advise these comrades that all the decisions of the 4th Congress [of the Comintern] will reach the United States before the Convention of the WP and there is, therefore, no need to delay the convention.

*Motion carried*, that the convention consist of 50 delegates.

*Motion*, that the convention be held in New York City.

*Amendment*, that the convention be held in Milwaukee.

*Motion carried, amendment lost.*

*Motion*, that the expenses of the convention be covered through an assessment of \$50.00 to each District for each delegate to the convention. Carried.

### **District 2 [New York] Campaign.**

*Motion carried*, that District #2 [New York] be instructed not to carry on a campaign to have names of candidates written in on the ballot on election day as such a campaign will only result in a weak showing for the Party in the elections.

### **Research Bureau.**

*Motion carried*, that the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] be authorized to establish a Research Bureau in the National Office.

### **Editorial Staff of *Worker*.**

*Motion carried*, that Comrade [Harry] Wicks be appointed Labor Editor of *The Worker*.

It was explained by the Executive Secretary that Comrade [Bill] Dunne would be placed on the payroll of the Labor Defense Council for a speaking tour beginning October 29 [1922].

### **Unity with United Toilers.**

The Secretary [Ruthenberg] reported that an agreement had been reached to have the United Toilers unite with the WP on the following basis:

A. Language Branches of the United Toilers shall hold public meetings and vote to apply for a charter as Branches of the Workers Party.

B. The Branches shall thereupon be enrolled as Branches of the Federation of their language group and purchase dues stamps through the Federation Bureau. The National Office of the party will issue the charter to the Branch and arrange the representation of the Branch in the CCC [City Central Committee] of the respective cities.

C. English Branches of the United Toilers shall make application for a charter directly to the National Office of the WP, and shall thereupon be affiliated with the CCC in their respective cities.

2. Subscriptions to *The Workers' Challenge* will be filled by *The Worker*. Bundle orders will be scaled down until new orders are received from the branches.

3. The indebtedness of the National Office [of the United Toilers], estimated at \$2,200, is to be liquidated, as far as possible, through the following process:

Dues paid by the Branches of the United Toilers to the WP during the months of November and December [1922] are to be set aside as a liquidation fund to pay this indebtedness. The Federation and the Branches shall receive their respective share of the dues, but the remaining 30¢ per stamp will be used to create the fund for the liquidation of the indebtedness. The National Office of the WP assumes no obligation in regard to this indebtedness except to collect and distribute the liquidation fund.

4. The Bureaus of the Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Lettish [Latvian], Lithuanian Federations shall be reorganized so as to give representation to the United Toiler Branches. One representative shall also be granted to the Jewish Bureau, however, without disrupting the existing division of membership between the two groups [the former Jewish Communist Federation and former Jewish Socialist Federation factions].

### **Soviet Anniversary Manifesto.**

*Motion carried*, that Comrades Engdahl, Bitelman, and Ruthenberg be elected a committee to draft a manifesto for the 5th Anniversary [of the October Revolution].

Meeting adjourned.

*C.E. Ruthenberg,*  
Executive Secretary.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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