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# Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America: New York City — Oct. 31, 1922.

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Copy in Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 148, ll. 30-32.

Present: [Alex] Bittelman, [Louis] Engdahl, [Marion] Emerson, [Elmer] Allison, [A.] Nastasievsky, [Will] Weinstone, Heryske, [Edward] Lindgren, [C.E.] Ruthenberg, [Bill] Kruse, [Ludwig] Lore, and [Jacob] Salutsky.

Comrade Lindgren elected chairman.

## **Jewish Federation Controversy.**

Comrade Weinstone reported for the majority of the committee of the CEC on the Jewish Federation Controversy. He stated that the committee had held two meetings with the committee representing the Federation Bureau, but that no agreement had been arrived at. For the majority of the committee of the CEC he submitted the following recommendations:

1. That a convention of the Jewish Federation shall be held during the first week of January [1923].
2. That a Convention Committee of 10 members, 5 from each group in the Jewish Bureau, to be elected by the members of the group from among the present members of the group, be constituted and that this Convention Committee make the arrangements for the convention and that it conduct the work of the Federation until the convention.
3. That the next meeting of the Jewish Bureau, as a whole, be held on the eve of the convention.
4. That the two groups must designate their representatives on the Convention Committee within 1 week and notify the CEC.

Comrade [Moissaye] Olgin reported for the committee of the Jewish Federation. Later Comrade Salutsky made the recommendation of Comrade Olgin his minority report, which recommended:

That a committee of 6, 3 from each group in the Jewish Bureau, be elected by the Jewish Bureau and that this committee have complete and exclusive charge of the arrangements and calling of the convention of the Federation, including the date of the convention.

After a lengthy debate, the vote was taken on the minority report, which was lost by vote of 4 in favor and 7 against.

The report of the majority of the committee was then adopted.

*Motion carried*, that the Executive Secretary be instructed to send a statement covering the action of the CEC on the Jewish Federation controversy to each branch of the Party.

## **The Labor Party.**

The Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] submitted a report on the movement for a Labor Party in particular reference to the conference to be held on December 11th [1922] in Chicago, and a resolution endorsing the formation of a Labor Party with the WP as an autonomous group inside of the Party.†

After a discussion *a motion was carried*, that

†- Reference is to the 2nd conference of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, actually held in Cleveland on Dec. 11 and 12, 1922. John Pepper, chief advocate of the Labor Party policy, came onto the CEC of the underground CPA in October of 1922.

we endorse the formation of a Labor Party and seek admittance to it and that we begin an immediate campaign for the organization of a Labor Party.

The resolution on the subject was referred to a committee consisting of Comrades Lore, Bittelman, Engdahl, Allison, and Ruthenberg for revision.

**Motion carried**, that the committee above endeavor to arrange conferences with the groups in favor of the Labor Party.

**Motion carried**, that the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] call a conference of Party editors to discuss the Party policy toward the Labor Party.

### **Lore-Salutsky Articles and Ruthenberg Reply.**

Comrade Bittelman brought before the committee the matter of the publication of the article "Where Do We Stand?" by Comrade Ruthenberg in the *Freiheit*, stating that the editor of the *Freiheit* had refused to publish same on the ground that it related to a controversial matter which he had been instructed not to discuss in the *Freiheit*.†

**Motion**, that the article written by Comrade Ruthenberg be considered an expression of the CEC and that it be published in all Party papers.

**Amendment**, that we instruct all Party editors to publish the article "Where Do We Stand?" by Comrade Ruthenberg.

**Amendment**, that the committee instruct Comrade Ruthenberg to confine publication of the article to *The Liberator* and the *Volkszeitung*, in which the articles replied to appeared.

**Amendment**, that the three articles involved in the controversy be published by all the Party papers.

**Amendment**, that any member of the committee desiring to reply to Comrade Ruthenberg first submit his article to the CEC for approval.

**Amendment**, that the printing of Comrade Ruthenberg's article close the discussion.

After extended debate the following *two proposals were adopted*:

1. That the committee instruct Comrade Ruthenberg to confine publication of the article to *The Liberator* and the *Volkszeitung*.

2. That the printing of Comrade Ruthenberg's reply closes the discussion.

The committee then adjourned.

*C.E. Ruthenberg,*  
Executive Secretary.

†- Ruthenberg's "Where Do We Stand?" was distributed by the Workers Party Press Service to the party press on Oct. 24, 1922. The article was an attack on critical articles by CEC members Jacob Salutsky (*Liberator*, Oct. 1922) and Ludwig Lore (*Newyorker Volkszeitung*, Oct. 15, 1922). Salutsky had argued that in the aftermath of the raid on the August 1922 Bridgman convention of the underground CPA, the revolutionism of the American Communist movement had been liquidated. Lore argued that the needs of legal defense associated with the Bridgman raid had made conducting of a national campaign by the WPA in the fall of 1922 impractical. Ruthenberg slammed both of these theses as examples of "political nearsightedness," arguing against Salutsky that the American working class had only now "begun to move in the direction that leads to revolution" and arguing against Lore that far from crippling the party, the Bridgman raids had forged important new links with other progressive organizations and the raid had thus represented a "distinct advance" for the party.

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.*

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