
One Reason for an Organization Within an Organization:

A circular letter to factional allies from Julius Gerber in New York, April 19, 1919.

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New York, April 19, 1919.

Dear Comrade:—

I am calling a conference of party members to meet at the office of Local New York on Monday evening, April 21st [1919]. We will meet at 9 pm, People's House, 7 East 15th Street.

The situation in the party is rather critical at this time, and it is almost too late now to stem the tide.

We ought to be clear among ourselves what we will, or can do. The so-called Left Wing is determined to either capture or split the party. What the capture of the party by the Left Wing means ought to be evident to anyone who has watched their performance.

On the other hand, is it worthwhile for the sincere Socialist to keep the fight up? While we are fighting among ourselves there is no work for the party. Our energies, our time, and the money is wasted in the fight among ourselves.

A split in the party will at this time do irreparable injury to our party and to the Cause, while the control of the party by these irresponsible people will make the party an outlaw organization, and break up the organization.

Tuesday evening, the Central Committee meets. At this meeting the die will be cast as far as Local New York is concerned. We ought to decide beforehand. We ought to know what we are to do.

The reason the Left Wing has grown and is mak-

ing converts is because they have an organization that does nothing else. They have their organs that give their side. They act as a group while we have neither organization, nor press (*The Call* should not be used for factional purposes) and our comrades act as individuals. Result is chaos on our side, organization, discipline, and success on their side.

As the official of Local New York, I have tried to do the party's work regardless of faction, have tried as much as possible to keep factionalism out of the party. But the time has come when I have a duty to the party, and my duty compels me to call this conference to lay the situation before the party members.

I have for myself decided as to my course and my action, but I feel I have no right to do anything without the knowledge and consent of my comrades — my comrades, who with me have helped to build, maintain, and hold together our party. For this reason I am calling this conference, and I hope you will come. Come about 9 pm as the Executive Committee meets that evening and we will meet soon thereafter.

I know this may inconvenience you. I know you are out nights and perhaps will have to be out again Tuesday at the Central Committee but believe me this matter is of importance enough so that you can miss an hour's sleep and put up with a little inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Julius Gerber.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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