
Weekly Radical Report for Pittsburgh, PA for the Week Ending Oct. 1, 1921.

[Extract]

by H.J. Lenon

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REPORT.

Facts Developed:

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Communist Party of America, Unified.

Some important CEC decisions:

Sub-committees have been elected to investigate and report on the negro question and the Irish question, also to take up the question of participation in the fall election. (The workers ticket in NYC with Ben Gitlow as Communist candidate for mayor, is the result of the committee's action.)

Until further notice the CP of A will issue no membership certificates to be used in Soviet Russia, except in special cases (such as party couriers).

Communist Party members are encouraged to join ex-soldiers' organizations, particularly those composed of privates, and to form nuclei within for conducting our propaganda. The formation of such nuclei should be reported through party channels.

Federations who have split away from the Socialist Party (like the Jewish) will be used as LEGAL organizations by the CP. Members within these units will at all times present the Communist argument.

It is planned to make *The Toiler* a 12-page weekly;

it will be the LEGAL paper of the Communist Party. It will have one editor and two associate editors.

All CP members are to contribute ONE DAY's wages during the month of September. The party members out of work will donate one day's work collecting funds. This is to build up the party treasury.

A delegate from MOSCOW (Communist International) has arrived in this country and will assist in directing the CP of America. This gent stated that the legal activities should be broadened, that the Communist slogans regarding armed insurrection should not be stressed in the propaganda to reach the people at this time.

Speakers touring the country for the LEGAL DEPARTMENT must have the approval of the CEC. All speakers for the American Labor Alliance and National Defense. THREE NEW DISTRICTS have been created in the west. The party now has 19 paid organizers, while sub-districts in districts 1 [New York], 3 [Philadelphia], 6 [Detroit] have one paid sub-district organizer each. Districts 2 [New York] and 6 [*sic.*, *should be D5 Cleveland*] have 2 paid SDOs and District 5 [Chicago] has three paid SDOs. Twenty-two sub-district organizers have been appointed in the eastern districts.

The Communist Party is in bad FINANCIAL condition. I find that their official figures on this condition are as follows:—

The party's expenses during the months of July and August [1921] exceeded the receipts of \$15,000. It is estimated that this will be over \$25,000 before the end of September (in worse shape than the Socialist Party). The CEC has adopted the following changes to cut down their expenses.

Papers two and three will be combined (called the COMMUNIST and the OFFICIAL BULLETIN). One CEC member will do all the research work. To give up two of the THREE headquarters that are being maintained by the CP. NYC will be the one maintained. To give up the PRESS SERVICE, the *Workers Challenge*, and the *Voice of Labor*. To engage no LEGAL speakers outside of the National Office. To stop all contributions to the weekly Jewish [Yiddish] and Bohemian [Czech] papers. The South Slavs to pay for their own publication. The COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO REDUCED THE WAGES OF THEIR INTELLECTUALS. The WAGE SCALE is now—

Workers without families receive \$25.00 weekly.

Workers with wife or parents to support receive \$35.00 weekly.

Workers with families to support receive \$40.00 weekly.

TEN PAID ORGANIZERS WILL BE CHANGED TO UNPAID WORKERS.

No district office shall hold over \$100.00 of party funds in district treasury.

Groups of former Socialist Party members have applied to the CEC for data on the policy of the CEC.

The CP directs all sub-districts to organize study classes and to use *The ABC of Communism* as the textbook. The theses on the 3rd International to be used for reference.

All speakers are to condemn the SP as reactionary and unfit to lead in the American revolutionary movement.

The CP of A issued ONE MILLION leaflets monthly in the English language and 300,000 monthly in the foreign languages.

The CP of A has affiliations in 21 languages in the US. They have sufficient membership in 10 languages — Finnish, German, Hungarian, Jewish [Yiddish], Lettish [Latvian], Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, South Slavic [Croatian], Ukrainian (principal language federations).

CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA was circulated among the NEGROES in NYC recently, where the UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (GARVEY) held its convention. The

CEC requests all groups have NEGRO recruits to send for literature.

The INDUSTRIAL section of the CP of A directs all agitators to work on the UNEMPLOYED, and to make the following demands.

Workers belonging to labor unions should organize not RANK AND FILE unemployment committees, getting together with sympathizers. Open air and hall meeting should be organized.

1. Demand maintenance of the unemployed by local, state, or federal government, *at trade union rate of wages*, or unemployment wages at full trade union rates.

2. Free distribution of food to families of unemployed to prevent starvation.

3. Organized resistance to eviction for nonpayment of rent by unemployed.

4. Immediate trade relations with Soviet Russia.

The CP of A is making a membership census; same must be completed immediately; will be published.

The average membership of the CP of A in August was about 8,243 dues paying members. This does not include the membership in the contributing organizations like the Hungarians, Italians, Finns, Jews, etc., unless they are organized as part of the organization direct.

The CP received \$26,421.01 in receipts in July [1921]. Paid out \$29,337.29 in expenses during July. During AUGUST it held many language federation conventions which have piled up the party debt.

General Remarks.

From what I can get from reports of the EC and the expressions of the party intellectuals, the CP is trying to enlarge upon its LEGAL WORK. We find a badly SPLIT up organization developing more wings than the SP had. Here we have the LEGAL, ILLEGAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and a mixture of everything. The party organizes and disorganizes at will, leaving in its wake a mass of confusion that disorganizes more than it organizes. The party continually changes its District Organizers. The main difficulty is its lack of cooperation with the organization, sub-districts depend upon the SDO to post them, by this the

SD is completely in the hands of the Sub-District Organizer. It all depends upon the Sub-District Organizer.

There is NO AGITATION for Communist leadership. Most of their activity centralizes around districts where the leaders reside, like Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York, Chicago, Detroit. In cities where the SP has any strength the Communists usually spend most of their time fighting with the SP. It is always easy to detect the Communists in action, for they always condemn the SP, agitate for the Soviet Republic, etc., also use plenty of the Bolsheviki terms of expression. Supposed to be underground but they LOVE TO RECOMMEND THE COMMUNIST TACTICS. Mostly all intellectuals in the red movement like to display their extreme Bolsheviki radicalism. Being a red Communist is something that will not be underground. The red can never keep his mouth shut; everything else connected with the CP is underground; take, for instance, their treasury.

HANAS, of Pittsburgh, states that the National Croatian Society, many of whom are members of the [South Slavic] Federation of the Communist Party, donated \$11,000 at their recent convention to help Soviet Russia. This is a legal organization, having 45,000 members. HANAS claims that 95% of its membership are either affiliated or in sympathy with the communist Party. A priest who is a member of their organization and attempts to direct their affairs is powerless according to HANAS, who claims that the red element is able to offset the influence of the priest.

It is admitted by many that some of the leaders are radical, but according to GEORGE HARAMIC, a Pittsburgh Notary Public and Interpreter, the membership at large are communicants in the Roman Catholic Church and are not in sympathy with the Communist Party.

SCHMITT, of Pittsburgh, states that the editor of the *Pittsburgh American* has been offered a position in Washington, DC, presumably to offset his radical intentions, but if he decides to accept the position, the man who will take his place is more of a radical than the present editor.

I am of the opinion that the negro is making a little play to induce the Communists to believe he is a "bad nigger" and thereby get an occasional order to

publish certain articles or carry advertisements for local meetings, etc., at so much per inch or foot.

The English group held a meeting at the home of DR. LUEKE, 326 Ella Street, recently. OSTERMAN, DR. LUEKE, HUBAY, HILL, LYNCH, and CHANADY were present. Minutes of Sub-District Committee meeting were read, also communication from DO#4 [apparently Morris Kushinsky] telling of appointment of a DO for new District #11 [Pittsburgh]. Pages 63 to 66 in the ABC of Communism was read and discussed and it was the opinion of those present that Sunday would be the best day to hold weekly meetings. The Sub-District Committee meeting referred to above was held at the home of a Lithuanian in the 2200 block on Tustin Street. Those present were VERBA, CANJAR, HILL, CURLY, SIMONDS, and SYLVESTER. The latter reported for Section 1 — 180 members, 10 branches, 20 groups, 139 paid dues for August 23 exempted as out of employment, 18 women (wives of Communists). Number 2 Russian branch, 22 members have not paid dues for September. South Slavic branch #1, 32 members, 14 of whom paid dues. South Slavic #2, 20 members, 11 paid dues. The English branch has 7 members and they have all have paid dues. The Finish branch has 5 members and they have all paid. Lithuanian branch #1 has 49 members and 44 have paid dues, 2 exempted, 3 women members. Lithuanian branch #2 has 11 members, 5 of them pay dues, the rest are women. [Russian??] #1 branch has 6 members, 4 of them pay dues. #3 Russian has 10 members, 9 pay dues. All meetings held regularly. Section progressing well.

CANJAR reported for #2 Section (Rankin, East Pittsburgh, Wilmerding, and Verona), saying that he has 44 members, 4 branches, and 6 groups. The South Slavic branch has 21 members, 1 Ukrainian group has 11 members, 10 paying dues. Another South Slavic branch has 5 members with only one paying dues. Hungarian branch has 4 members, all paying dues, while another South Slavic branch with 4 members paying dues. Section progressing.

VERBA reported for Section #3 (Ambridge, Conway, Freedom, and Rochester), 28 members. English branch, 8 members, 7 paying dues, 1 exempted. South Slavic branch #1 has 9 members, 7 paying dues. South Slavic branch #2 has 5 members, dues paid up

to date. #1 Ukrainian group, 7 members, 3 pay dues, 2 new members — 1 English, 1 Slavic — had been admitted. Section progressing.

Section #4 (McKeesport) absent.

Section #5 (McKees Rocks) reported by SIMONDS as having 16 members in 2 groups: South Slavic, 7 members, 4 of whom pay dues; Lithuanian has 9 members, 3 paying dues.

It was decided to distribute the leaflet Stand by the Miners of Mingo from 11:00 pm Thursday night [Sept. 29, 1921] to 1:00 am Friday [Sept. 30]. Leaflets were distributed in quantities to the delegates. VERBA took 3,000 to Rochester, he also took 4 copies of the *ABC of Communism* and 2 copies of the *Thesis*.

The regular meeting of Section #1 of District #11 [Pittsburgh] was held at the home of HILL at 11:00 am, Sunday, September 25th [1921]. Those present were CURLY, HILL, SYLVESTER, HANAS, WOOD, LAWRENCE, KERENSKY, and three new branch organizers whose names we did not learn, two men from Russian and one from Finnish branches.

SCOTT [Karlis "Charley" Janson], of the Communist International, who was expected, did not put in an appearance. Four Lithuanian members of their bureau were expelled recently and the other three withdrew from the party in support of their comrades. SCOTT [Janson] has taken the matter up with the CEC for future action.

HILL was chosen chairman of the meeting and introduced CURLY as the new DO. CURLY spoke for two and one-half hours on the activity of the CEC since Unity, of the formation of a legal Communist Party in the United States, and of the Russian convention.

SYLVESTER had nothing to report, except receipt of \$12.80 for literature from the English group.

All branch organizers reported progress. Two Russian branches presented protests from their groups to the CEC against the expulsion of "RAY." CURLY advised that both branches would be expelled if the protests were sent in and advised that they be returned to their branches for further consideration. Motion made and adopted.

The Technical director issued instructions for the distribution of the "MINGO" leaflets. Appointments were made by CURLY to visit all the foreign groups

to explain the action of the CEC in expelling 19 Russians and 4 Lithuanians.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm and most of the comrades went to the Jewish Lyceum where "The Pittsburgh Relief Conference for Soviet Russia" met with 30 delegates present. THOMPSON, of the SP, assumed the chairmanship. This caused a fight on the floor, with the result that LUTSKY and STOCK, of the CP withdrew from the conference. General discussion and disorder followed, resulting in THOMPSON gaining his point.

A Press Committee was appointed with ESKIN for the Russian papers, COOPER for the Jewish, and HILL for the English.

The "Tag Day" Committee reported progress.

The Concert Committee reported that a concert will be held at the Jewish Lyceum, October 23rd for the relief of Russia.

The Financial secretary's report showed \$1,027 in the treasury and it was voted to send \$1,000 to the Friends of Soviet Russia at once. The SP fought to have the money retained in the treasury until after the investigation committee reported at the next meeting, but failed.

The American Labor Alliance [for Trade with Soviet Russia] planned to hold a celebration in honor of the Russian Revolution, November 6th [1921], at the Jewish Lyceum, but they are in doubt about securing the hall.

The "MINGO" leaflets were sent to Thomas, W.Va.; Robey Mine, W.Va.; Minden, W.Va.; Fairmont, W.Va.; Moundsville, W.Va.; West Sixth Mine, W.Va.; and 75 Marshall Street, Benwood, W.Va. They were also sent to the following places in Pennsylvania:—

M. BACICH, P.O. Box 208, Cokeburg, Pa.

A. BEAH, P.O. Box 253, Bessemer, Pa.

M. BACEVICH, P.O. Box 251, Meadow Land, Pa.

M. JIANICH, P.O. Box 350, Bentleyville, Pa.

A. RANCEVICH, P.O. Box 554, Donora, Pa.

A. ZILICH, P.O. Box 181, Bolger, Pa.

L. JERDICH, P.O. Box 34, Langluth, Pa.

The packages containing the leaflets received here bore the following return address:—

From A. BARBOICH
804 College Ave.,
Cleveland, O.

As soon as we secured samples of the leaflets, copy was given to Assistant District Attorney Myers of Allegheny County in order to obtain his opinion of the contents. Mr. Myers said: "This is very cleverly written, but it is a violation of the State Sedition Act and if anyone is apprehended for distributing them I will be glad to argue the case."

Information was passed to the State Police Heads, notifying them of the contemplated distribution on Thursday night. Dodgers were since found in several places but no arrests were made.

A letter received from the New York office of the American Labor Alliance stated that *The Toiler* would probably arrive here October 1st [1921] and preparation should be made for distribution by the local American Labor Alliance secretary, and drawing particular attention to an article by W.Z. FOSTER on the French Labor Movement that will appear in the latest issue. CURLY kept the letter.

The "Tag Day" Committee of the Pittsburgh Relief Conference to Soviet Russia held another meeting and decided to work the "Tag" game October 8th and 9th. The American Labor Alliance will cover the North Side and South Side and other organizations will take care of the Ghetto. The "Taggers" will carry credentials to show, if challenged by a comrade, but will not ask for a Police permit.

CURLY states that STOCK, former DO of District 5 [Cleveland] of the old UCP, is now DO in California [pseudonym "R.D. Schoen"?] and very active. He is in close touch with the editors of the "Rank and

File" labor paper and is believed to be one of the editors. His name is PAUL SOREBURN.

ERB states that WERNER will teach the young folks at the International Socialist Lyceum this winter instead of DETWEILER, and that the Young Communist League will take the place of the Social School of Science formerly taught by DETWEILER.

DR. LUEKE received 600 of the "MINGO" dodgers for distribution. He then stated that he is going to write a leaflet touching on the workingman's money in the bank at 4% while the banker speculates with this money on the necessities of life and makes 140% and that the worker pays an excess of 135% to live and he furnishes the banker the money, receiving 4% for his generosity. He said he would also write one on the coming election and advise against voting for the businessman's candidates.

ERB took the supply of dodgers for distribution on the North Side last Thursday. This man receives 10 copies of *The Toiler* each issue.

SYLVESTER took 2,500 dodgers to his home, 2110 Forbes Street, and passed them out to friends for distribution. SYLVESTER is working to have the Russians and Lithuanians demand the reinstatement of all expelled members even if all of their number is expelled for doing so.

S.S. OSASTO, 2821 White Street, Pittsburgh, Finnish Organizer formerly of Daisytown, Pa., is now known as KELLY; he also took a large supply of dodgers.

CURLY is having a hard time getting the Lithuanians and Russians together to hear him defend the CEC. They have very little use for CURLY.

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Edited by Tim Davenport.

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