
Letter to Alfred Wagenknecht in New York from Charles Dirba in New York, February 26, 1920.

A handwritten document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 33, l. 50.

Feb. 26, 1920

A. Wagenknecht, Exec. Sec.,
Communist Labor Party,
City.

Dear Comrade:

Owing to arrest in Detroit and subsequent detention at Chicago of Comrade Ruthenberg, your letter has come delayed into my hands.

And as you have set a date by which you expect to hear from him, I am writing now, but only in an informal way, as I do not have the authority or the records to reply fully.

Our Committee did make a reply to your proposition, and this reply, in writing, was given to Comrade Ruthenberg for transmission to your committee. I know he sent it to you, but you may have received it after you wrote for it, or it may have been lost in the mails.

I am sorry I do not have a copy of this reply. Essentially it was as follows:

On the first clause: We could not consistently join in, or subscribe to such a declaration, but could not object to it being made by the CLP.

On the second clause: We maintain that acceptance of those provisions of our constitution setting forth the relations of the Federations in the Party is necessary for the basis of a joint convention, it being

understood that the joint convention should be arranged within the next six months.

On the third clause: Immediate consolidation of the Executive Committees — and the organization, propaganda, and defense work — while the Federations would continue as at present, was rejected by our CEC as inconsistent with our principles and impracticable in the present circumstances — the only road to a real, organic unity being a joint convention.

As to the publication of the proceedings, I might call your attention to the fact that it has already been done in the recent issue of *The Communist*. This letter is not written to prevent your steps in the same direction, but merely to inform you of the fact in the case.

In our reply it was also mentioned that we would be glad to attend another joint conference, if your committee desired one.

Fraternally,

Chas. Dirba

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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