
Bulletin

To All District Organizers and Federation Executives from C.E. Ruthenberg, Executive Secretary, May 5, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 200, folder 20.

May 5, 1920

To All District Organizers
and Federation Executives:

Comrades:—

In order to inform you of the present status of the negotiations between the various groups I have prepared the following resume:

Negotiations with CEC Majority.

On Tuesday, April 22, I addressed the Majority group of the CEC a letter calling attention to the fact that the last proposal of our group in the conference which ended the previous Sunday [April 18, 1920], was an offer to enter into discussion of the details of a convention in which both groups would be represented, stating that this offer was still open and that we were ready to discuss every detail of the matter.

Two weeks elapsed before any reply to this letter was received from the majority group of the CEC. In the reply received this morning the Majority group makes as one of the conditions to discussing the matter at all, that the "Minority" group must FIRST WITHDRAW ITS CALL FOR A CONVENTION. To this proposal I have replied that the present call is reached for a joint call. The Majority group of the CEC had indicated that it wants a long delay before a convention and this we cannot agree to. I have said to

them that we are ready to negotiate on all questions and come to an agreement, including the date of the convention, but we will not withdraw our call prior to reaching such an agreement. If the Majority group maintains its position this question is deadlocked and we need not look to anything further from this direction.

Negotiations with the CLP.

It seems that the CLP had rejected the apportionment of delegates on the basis of 32 to 18 prior to the split in our organization. Since no agreement could be reached on this question a unity conference has been proposed as the alternative. This will mean that the CLP convention delegates and our convention delegates will meet together as separate units and proceed to discuss the question of unity and arrive at an agreement before the two bodies of delegates are united in one convention. A unity conference of this character will take the question of unity out of the hands of executive officials and leave it to the representatives of he members — the delegates to the convention — to decide. A proposal of this character is now pending. This proposal includes acceptance of the principles of the Manifesto and Program of the Communist Party as the basis for the conference. It is more than likely [that] an agreement will be reached for such a unity conference.

[C.E. Ruthenberg]

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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