
Historical Timeline of the Central Caucus, CPA (Sept. 17, 1921 to Jan. 6, 1922)

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 60, l. 37.

Original title: "From the Minutes of the Central Caucus, Sept. 17 to Jan. 6, 1921 [*sic.*]."

Sept. 17th [1921]: Caucus constituted. Caucus instructed Lithuanian Bureau not to recognize unconstitutional action of CEC in appointing 4 new members to Bureau and that it shall continue to act as the Bureau of the Lithuanian Federation.

Decided to instruct our faction to refuse to carry out decision of CEC to reorganize underground party into LPP [Legal Political Party]. Carried 7 to 1.

Decided to issue statements to membership from time to time.

Sept. 20th [1921]: Decided to appoint caucus leaders in each district. Following appointed:

D1 [Boston] — Sullivan [Alfred S. Edwards];†

D2 [New York] — Davis [Mrs. A.S. Edwards =???] (temp.);

D3 [Philadelphia] — Singer [=???];

D4 [Cleveland] — Anders [=???];

D5 [Chicago] — Johnson [Eugene Bechtold] to send name;

D6 [Detroit] — Deferred (later Kane [=???]);

D9 [Seattle] — Kelly [George Ashkenuzi] to recommend;

D10 [Buffalo] — Retap [=???];

D11 [Pittsburgh] — *<deleted in ink>*

D12 [Minneapolis] — Sasha [Rose Pastor Stokes];

D8 [St. Louis] — Kartash [=???].

Sept 27th [1921]: Considered and adopted "Statement No. 1." Lithuanian Federation notified CC [Central Caucus] that it cannot lead its membership against CEC and intend to yield. CC decided to send representatives to Lithuanian Bureau to present posi-

tion of Caucus.

Decided to advise all comrades to abstain as far as possible from taking any action which would give legitimate cause for expulsion from party.

Decided to instruct all District Caucuses that groups, branches, etc. shall refuse to recognize suspensions and expulsions. Benjamin [Benjamin Lipschitz] elected to Caucus for Jewish [Federation].

Oct. 3rd [1921]: Dobin [Charles Dirba] reported on Lithuanian Bureau. CC decided to instruct Lithuanian Bureau and district leaders not to recognize new Lithuanian Bureau and to demand reinstatement of former Lithuanian Bureau. Decided not to appeal to Comintern at this time.

Oct. 10th [1921]: Russian Caucus decided not to give over machinery of *Iskra*. Decided to instruct groups not to recognize suspension of 19 Russian comrades. Allowed 2 delegates from Lithuanian Caucus to CC.

Oct. 17th [1921]: Appeal of 3 CEC members [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam] to 3rd [International] read. Discussion of principle of LPP. Appeal referred back to committee. Committee instructed to express in appeal that in principle we are in favor of LPP but against form and organization at present moment in US and under present conditions. Carried 4 to 3 — 2 not voting. Decided that whole question of LPP be taken up in each Federation Caucus and to call all district leaders to next meeting of CC.

Decided that Lithuanian Caucus at once proceed to organize their membership.

Oct. 24 and 25 [1921]: With all district leaders

† - Not to be confused with his namesake Alfred Shenstone Edwards, the editor of the organ of the Social Democratic Party in the 1890s. Alfred S. Edwards was a Latvian Federationist from the Boston area; his wife, "J. Davis," was elected Executive Secretary of the Central Caucus' "Communist Party of America" at its National Conference/"Emergency Convention" held Jan. 7-12, 1922 .

present. Appeal of 3 CEC [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam] to 3rd [International] taken up seriatim, many amendments and policy of CC laid down, and attitude toward LPP determined. (Attach district statement).

Oct. 31st [1921]: District and Federation reports and routine matters.

Nov. 7th [1921]: Decided that all groups or branches suspended or expelled be instructed to continue to hold regular meetings, pay dues (to be retained by them), and keep in touch with their District Caucus.

Decided to notify all Districts and Federations that where parts of groups, branches, or sections are raised [forced overground] into LPP, those who are with us an opposed to joining LPP at once organize themselves, elect their own captains, branch organizers, section organizers, etc.; and hold their meetings separately before going into regular underground meeting, in order to maintain the present form of party organization and to prevent the total liquidation of our party. Carried 4 to 3.

Committee elected to draw up letter to all Districts upon basis of above motion.

Nov. 14th [1921]: Decided to send representatives of CC to all Districts to organize. Meetings to be of our comrades only. Committee elected to present names and plans for meetings.

Decided to draw up statement on Workers Council.

Nov. 21st [1921]: Statement on Workers Council adopted and sent to Russia.

Elected committee to draw up statement to membership.

Decided to send a comrade to Russia at once.

Name of comrade to be sent to be brought in by committee. [*handwritten in margin*: "Committee unable to suggest name. No one sent."]

Nov. 28th [1921]: Three CEC members [Dir-

ba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam] brought in call for National Conference. After amendment, adopted.

Decided that members of CC shall attend the National Conference, but that no member of CC shall be a candidate for election as delegate to National Conference.

Decided to concur in suggestion of D5 [Chicago] that members pay day's wage to CC.

Dec. 5th [1921]: Decided that all members pay dues to CC. Decided that Marsov [=??] call together all members of old Lithuanian Bureau and organize working Lithuanian Central Caucus.

Decided that 3 CEC members [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam] draw up and sign statement to membership.

Decided that John [Ballam?] go to Cleveland.

Decided to hold special meeting Wednesday [Dec. 8, 1921].

Dec. 8th [1921]: Adopted statement of 3 CEC members [Dirba, Ashkenuzi, Ballam].

Dec. 19th [1921]: Committees on reports to National Conference elected. Decided that no members of CC write to Districts officially of opinions expressed in the CC but upon which no official action is taken.

Dec. 26th [1921]: Adopted motion on work and cooperation with YCL.

That Comrades Batt and Wicks be allowed to appear before Caucus.

That Proletarian Party be invited to send representative fraternal delegate to National Conference.

Dec. 30th [1921]: Special meeting to consider and adopt reports.

Jan. 3rd [1922]: Considered and adopted outline and plan on legal work.

[Jan. 6th 1922]: <illeg.> Organization and Agenda.

To permit two delegates <illeg.> National Conference.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

Abbreviations expanded silently.

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