

Report of the Executive Secretary to the Meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America: New York — June 29, 1922.

by C.E. Ruthenberg

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Note: This report was made by the Executive Secretary at the meeting of the Central Executive Committee mentioned above. It is not intended for publication, but is being sent to all District Organizers, Federation Secretaries, and Editors of Party publications for their information.

Financial.

Owing to some peculiarities in the method of accounting in use in the National headquarters it has been difficult to arrive at the exact status of the various departments without a long investigation of the books. The following statements are therefore not complete in the statement of facts in regard to the various departments, but gives only an approximate idea. The totals of course are the exact totals.

The defects which made it difficult to secure more exact information are being remedied, and future statements will give the exact details for each department.

Cash Receipts

January to May 31 [1922]

Five Months.

General

General Loans	\$ 5,911.15
Rent Received	150.00
Transfers	327.30
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 6,388.45</u>

Executive Department

Dues Stamps	\$ 7,491.62
Initiation Stamps	575.00
Organization Stamps	327.30
Buttons	485.70
Supplies	254.29
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 9,910.94</u>

Literature Department

Literature — Own	\$ 257.99
Literature — Jobbing	1,197.90
Literature Loans	1,202.02
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 2,647.91</u>

[Other Sources]

Lyceum	\$ 633.79
Defense	38.10
United Front	29.00
Donations	12.00
Refund of Fare	23.49
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>[\$ 736.39]</u>

The Worker

Subscriptions	\$ 1,326.83
Subscription Cards	158.90
Bundles	1,591.47
Advertising	469.00
Donations	91.01
Exchange & Trans	37.84
Commune Meeting	100.00

(continued)

Office Sales	1.75
Opera Tickets	26.90
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 3,810.45</u>

Total Cash Receipts \$23,494.13

Cash Disbursements.

General

Pre-Convention	\$ 1,029.52
Convention Expense	6.00
CEC Expense	156.00
Agrarian Department	100.00
Petty Cash Advances	20.00
Accounts Receivable Dist.....	125.00
Firm & Fixtures	21.53
Exchange & Transfers	273.63
Accounts Payable	9,136.28
Subsidy YWL	420.00
Refund Federation Dues	1,438.49
Subsidy — Italian Federation	300.00
Subsidy — Polish Federation	85.00
Loan to District #9 [Minneapolis]	50.00
Loans Refund	224.40
Sinking Fund for Loans	400.00
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$13,787.05</u>

Executive Department

Travel Expense	\$ 669.18
Wages	2,717.50
Postage	243.63
Office Supplies	141.70
Bank Charges10
General Office Expense	132.02
Telephone	16.64
Interest on Loan	6.33
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 3,927.10</u>

Literature

Purchased Literature	\$ 654.38
Parcel Post & Postage	155.02
Royalties & Transfers	100.00
Wages	1,570.16

(continued)

Literature & Supplies	52.76
General Expense	70.77
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 2,603.09</u>

The Worker

Supplies	\$ 75.33
Mailing	53.73
Advertising Commission	13.00
Wages	1,936.00
Press Service	33.00
<i>[Sub-Total]</i>	<u>\$ 2,111.06</u>

Total Expenditures \$22,883.13

Total Receipts \$23,494.13

Total Expenditures 22,883.13

[Cash in Bank] \$ 611.00

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According to the above figures the actual deficit for the 5 months is as follows:—

Loans	\$ 5,911.15
Literature Loan	1,202.02
Cash Deficit	\$13,787.05

To this must be added:

Vouchers Payable \$ 5,689.75

Against this indebtedness there are credits:

Cash in Bank	\$ 611.00
Furniture & Fixtures	1,145.57
Office Machines	196.46
Sinking Fund	400.00
Advances to Districts	175.00
Total	\$ 2,528.03

Deficit	\$10,271.89
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There are to be considered as credits against this deficit accounts receivable amounting to \$30,316.04. Inasmuch, however, as a large part of this charge is from stamps of various character which must be sold before actually being assets, this cannot be considered as an asset although some part of it which consists of charges for literature will be realized.

The literature in hand is also a credit against the deficit. An inventory of literature and supplies will be taken July 1.

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The Literature Department.

The financial aspect of the Literature Department and *The Worker* are shown by the following figures:—

Debits

Cost of our literature	\$ 844.50
Literature purchased	3,047.79
Literature Party Publication	65.85
Literature Adv.	561.64
Translation (Literature)	100.00
Salaries	1,570.16
Supplies	198.06
General Expense	70.77
[Total Debits]	\$ 6,458.77

Credits

Literature Sales — Own	\$ 279.19
Literature Sales — Jobbing	4,523.45
[Total Credits]	\$ 4,802.64

Deficit \$ 1,656.13

Against this deficit there is a credit of literature on hand of which no inventory is available.

The weakness of the Literature Department is in the fact that while orders for \$4,802.64 have been filled, the actual cash receipt for sales has been only \$1,455.89. In other words we have shipped out \$3,346.75 for which no cash return has been received — more than 2/3 of the total.

Efforts are being made to remedy the condition

by new rules, as follows:

Individuals and branches must send cash with literature orders.

Credits to Districts, CCCs [City Central Committees], Book Stores, and Agents is limited to the 15th of the month following sale.

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The Worker.

Debits

Supplies	\$ 278.19
Printing	5,381.98
Mailing	34.97
Advertising	307.10
Commission on Subs	13.00
Stationary	221.65
Wages	1,976.00
Carbons	131.50
[Total Debits]	\$ 8,344.39

Credits

Subscriptions	\$ 1,485.73
Bundles	1,591.47
Donations	91.01
Lectures	106.75
Advertising	469.00
Office Sales	1.75
Exchange & Transfers	37.84
Opera Tickets	26.90
[Total Credits]	\$ 3,810.43

Deficit \$ 4,533.94

There are since credits against this for bundle orders not paid for, but it is unlikely that these would reduce the deficit more than \$1,000. The figures show a weekly deficit of \$215.85.

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The Party has issued 723 charters to Branches.

The first dues stamps were sold in February [1922]. For months of February, March, and April the dues stamps sales average 6,334. For the month of may

this has been increased to 9,759. Some of the Federation reports for May showed smaller stamp sales than usual membership figures, and it is safe to assume that we have 15,000 dues paying members.

Character of Our Membership.

The dues payment figures show that our party is still almost exclusively a Federation Language Group membership. Dues payment figures show about 2,000 membership in the districts which are not in the Federations. All these, even, are not American members.

The Districts.

As shown by the above analysis of the membership one of the most important tasks is to build up the American membership of our Party. We cannot hope to carry our program into action unless we bring such a membership into our organization. We are not functioning in the unions, and in the class struggle effectively because we haven't the membership who can function. Our immediate task is to build up such a membership. To achieve this systematic organization work must be done from district offices. If an additional man could be put into each district to travel from town to town, organizing and speaking where there are leads, or the DO could be sent out while an assistant took charge of the office work, good results could be secured. Something of that kind is being done in District 2 [New York], and in District 6 [Cleveland]. Such work will have to be supported by the national organization, in part at least. There is also the problem of finding men and women. With the endorsement of the CEC the Executive Secretary [Ruthenberg] will address himself to the question of working out some plan.

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The Federations.

Reports were recently asked from the Federations, and wherever possible a representative of the Federation appeared before the Organization Committee. The following is a resumé of these reports:

Finnish Federation.

Branches: 166

Membership: 6,344 (Average for 5 months)

Newspapers: 3 (Dailies at Worcester, Mass., Superior, Wis., and Astoria, Ore.)

Total Circulation: 22,500; semi-monthly comic paper with a circulation of 10,000.

Property: The Federation controls 3 publishing houses owning property worth \$125,000.

Literature: Two leaflets have been printed — "The Working-Class Movement" and "The Red Trade Union International," of each of which 25,000 copies have been circulated. 5,000 copies of the booklet *Theses and Resolutions of the Third Congress of the CI* have been printed and 10,000 copies of *Platform and Constitution of the Workers Party*.

German Federation.

Branches: 40 to 50

Membership: 1,200

Newspaper: *Volkszeitung*, daily. 20,000 circulation.

Literature: Issued: 30,000 copies of leaflets on "Party Aims" and 10,000 copies of leaflets on the "Textile Strike." Printed 6,000 copies of pamphlet with Party Program and Constitution. Will issue Bishop Brown's *Communism and Christianity*.

Organization: Has had an organizer out in Ohio and another in New England.

Greek Federation.

Branches: 9

Membership: 183

Newspaper: Weekly, with 3,000 circulation, published at deficit of \$75 monthly.

Literature: Issued 35,000 United Front leaflets. Published *Shop Talks on Economics* [by Mary Marcy]; *Industrial Autocracy* [by Mary Marcy]; *Communism and the Family*; *Party Program*; *Bolsheviki and the Soviets*; *Theses of the Third Congress*.

Institution: Has a book shop, which is doing a strong business.

Organization: Is conducting an organization drive

to raise membership to 500.

Union Activities: Has members in Amalgamated Food Workers Union, and controls Greek local of printers.

Hungarian Federation.

Branches: 38

Membership: 500

Newspaper: *Elore*, daily, 8,000 circulation; and weekly *Class Struggle*, 5,000 circulation.

Literature: Published 20,000 Miners' Strike leaflets and 30,000 *The Program of the WP; Program and Constitution; Communism and the Family; The Red Trade Union Theses; White Terror in Hungary; Dictatorship vs. Democracy.*

Institution: Maintains book store with stock of \$1,000. Has control of a number of societies. Printing plant has been leased to employees for 5 years.

FSR: Has raised \$10,000 for relief of Soviet Russia. Requests that when Party organizers are sent out, Federations be notified in advance.

Italian Federation.

Branches: 18

Membership: 200

Newspaper: Bi-weekly, 2,000 circulation, growing at rate of 100 per week.

Literature: Circulates literature of Italian CP.

Organization: Prospects of 4 new branches.

Financial: Is receiving \$30 weekly from the Party. Asks additional financial help to pay for an office assistant and field organizer.

Lithuanian Federation.

Branches: 47

Membership: 1,000

Newspapers: No papers directly controlled by the Party. *Laisves*, Brooklyn, and *Vilnis*, Chicago support the party.

Literature: Has published 15,000 May Day leaflets and is printing United Front Manifestoes. Has published 21 Communist pamphlets.

Unions: Has no report of union activities of members.

Study Classes: Branches are being urged to organize study classes.

Jewish Federation.

Branches: 66

Membership: 1,100 paying dues; claim 2,200. Difference explained by slow exchange to WP books.

Newspaper: *Freiheit*, daily, 30,000 circulation, deficit \$2,550 weekly. Is meeting deficit by a weekly tax of \$1 per member, and \$100 loan from members.

Literature: Has published many (100,000) May Day leaflets and 100,000 "Aims of Left Wing in the Union."

Lettish [Latvian] Federation.

Members: 200; Are functioning largely through the CCC [City Central Committees] in cooperation with English membership. Is not publishing any literature, only sending those Party instructions in Lettish [Latvian] which are needed.

Polish Federation.

Branches: 16

Membership: 200

Newspaper: Weekly, 2,000 circulation.

Literature: Published 15,000 May Day leaflets and 15,000 United Front manifestoes. Receives literature from Poland.

Institutions: Controls print shop worth \$12,000, with \$2,000 paid. Profits be divided 7-1/2% to Party and 7-1/2% to Federation.

Organization: Has had organizer in Ohio, New England.

Slavic (South) Federation.

No report received. Dues payments show membership.

Ukrainian Federation.

Branches: 8

Membership: 150

Newspaper: Weekly with circulation of 1,000 to 2,000.

Literature: No leaflets published. 3,000 of *Communism and the Family* published.

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Unaffiliated Federations.

The Scandinavian Federation is voting upon the question of affiliating with the WP with majority thus far in favor of affiliation.

The Czecho-Slovak Federation Executive Committee has voted to affiliate and has submitted the question to its members. Has 900 members.

The Romanian Federation has taken similar action. Negotiations are now under way with the Slovak Federation.

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Financial Statement, May 22 to July 1, 1922.

[Credits]

Receipts	\$ 456.67
Loan WP of A	1,000.00
Donations	1,709.91
Defense Literature	44.48
[Total Credits]	\$ 3,211.06

Expenditures

Legal Expenses	\$ 54.57
Prisoners' Relief	99.00
Prisoners' Family	112.00
Defense Travel Expense	200.00
Defense Wages	52.50
Mrs. A. Riuhoun	75.00
NY Division Loan	150.00
Charles Bramson, Loan Paid	200.00
Hollingsworth Wood, Dep. on Bail	1,000.00
[Total Expenditures]	\$ 2,443.07

Total Receipts	\$ 3,211.06
Total Expenditures	2,443.07
Balance, July 1	\$ 767.99

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Cases Pending in the Courts.

New York:

Left Wing Socialist Case: Ferguson, Gitlow, and Ruthenberg, out on bail pending decision of Court of Appeals. Hearing held June 6th [1922], decision probably in July.

Communist Party: Harry Winitsky, out on bail pending decision of Appellate Division.

Ignatz Mizher: Case before Appellate Division. Mizher is in Auburn Prison, certificate of reasonable doubt having been denied.

Paul Manko: Case being appealed to Appellate Division, Manko is in Dannemora State Hospital.

Minnie Kolnin and Anna Lesiman: Certificate of reasonable doubt to be argued soon. Both are in Auburn Prison for Women.

C. Paivio and Gus Alonen: Sentence will be completed in August and September, respectively. Both have had deportation warrants served on them.

About 15 deportation cases are pending in New York, the defendants being out on bail pending decision.

Pennsylvania:

Forty comrades arrested in April 1921 still have cases pending against them at Philadelphia.

Israel Blankstein has been found guilty of being an organizer of the Communist Party at Pittsburgh. Sentence has not been imposed. Motion for new trial pending, to be decided in July [1922]. Bail originally fixed at \$5,000. I secured this through the National Bail Fund, but when prosecution learned bail was to be given they raised bail to \$20,000. Efforts are being made to secure this.

Joe Marionowish: Convicted of being organizer of Communist Party. Serving 3 to 5 years in Western Pennsylvania Penitentiary.

Illinois:

Case against 20 members of Communist Labor Party affirmed by Supreme Court of state. Motion is being filed for rehearing. If denied the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

California:

Five members of the CLP to be tried for Criminal Anarchy. Have not detailed information about case.

Federal:

J.O. Bentall serving sentence in Leavenworth. Efforts made to secure a commutation have been met with a promise for action in the fall.

C.E. Ruthenberg,
Executive Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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