
Memo from C.E. Ruthenberg to All WPA District Organizers on Infiltration of the Socialist Party, March 17, 1923.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 179, l. 24.

March 17, 1923.

TO ALL DOs

Dear Comrade:

As you probably already know the 16/1. 1/2. [SP] is preparing to hold its convention in the near future. In this organization that is now being developed a so-called left wing movement. It is necessary for us to help crystallize that left movement. This is especially essential before the coming convention of the organization. It is necessary to have some of our comrades in their units who could carry out the policies of the CEC which will be sent you shortly.

The agenda for their convention was published in their official organ and it shows on every important proposition there are two motions, one proposed by the rights, and one by the lefts.†

Upon receipt of this communication you are to select some trustworthy and capable comrades who should be instructed to make an effort to join one of their branches in their locality. This is to be done in every city of your district where they are strong. One or two comrades is sufficient for every branch. The comrades must be absolutely trustworthy.

The entire question is absolutely confidential and should not be made subject for discussion among the general membership for obvious reasons.

Fraternally,

J. Miller [C.E. Ruthenberg]
Exec. Secretary.

†- This document is untitled in the original, typewritten on a half-sheet of paper. The February 1923 issue of the Socialist Party of America's official organ, *The Socialist World* [Chicago], ran an article entitled "Preliminary Agenda: National Convention Socialist Party, New York City, April 28, 1923." This article included motions and alternative motions with regard to participation in the Conference for Progressive Political Action (cooperation vs. severing all connections) and instruction of SP delegates to a forthcoming World Congress in Hamburg (to vote for unconditional formation of a single international vs. for an international only if all parties repudiating the doctrine of Social Peace [*Burgfrieden*] are excluded). The basic SP unit of organization in large cities was called a "branch." The deduction that the coded "16/1 1/2" in this document refers to "SP" follows quite easily from these facts.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.
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