
Circular Letter to All Locals and Branches of the Socialist Party of America from Alfred Wagenknecht, Executive Secretary of the CLP, circa Sept. 10, 1919.

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 6, l. 34.

To All Locals and Branches.

Comrades:—

This is an official letter from the Communist Labor Party to your organization. Please give it careful consideration.

We take it for granted that your organization is convinced that you can no longer stay in the old Socialist Party, the party of reaction; the party which, in convention, refused to endorse the Third International and which contains “leaders” who even find words of excuse for the murderers of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

The Left Wing delegates whom you sent to Chicago to attend the convention of the Socialist Party were thrown out of the convention hall by the police in command of the Socialist Party National Secretary. These Left Wing delegates, 82 in number, then organized the legal Socialist Party convention, under the direction of the new National Executive Committee which you elected and in obedience to the mandate of the National Left Wing Conference, organized the Communist Labor Party, the logical outgrowth of the fight for Left Wing principles made in the Socialist Party by the majority of its members.

The time for indecision is passed. You must

take a definite stand. If your organization is in harmony with the reactionary Socialist Party, then your place is not with the Communist Labor Party. If, on the other hand, you can subscribe to the enclosed platform, program, and constitution, then your place is with the revolutionary socialists of the world and we earnestly invite you to affiliate.

We suggest that you immediately call a special meeting of your Local or Branch, and transact no other business except that of discussing the platform and program of the Communist Labor Party and deciding your affiliation. If you decided favorably, then fill out the enclosed affiliation certificate, and the order blank as well, mail both to the National Office and we will notify your State Office of your action.

Take your stand with us in a *united revolutionary movement*. Out all ties that bind you to that kind of socialism which has made Scheidemann and Kerensky infamous. Align yourself with our Russian comrades, and the Communist Labor Parties of Italy, Sweden, England, and other countries. Enter the work for the upbuilding of the Communist Labor Party in this country with determination. The old Socialist Party is dead. The new party is virile with the spirit of those who know no compromise. Join us and let us hear from

you at once.

Yours in Comradeship,

A. Wagenknecht,
Executive Secretary.

Note: Copies of *Communist Labor Party News* containing platform, program, and constitution are being sent you under separate cover. If you desire a bundle, one for each of your members, write at once.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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