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# Letter to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America in New York from the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party in New York, March 25, 1920.

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March 28, 1920.

Central Executive Committee,  
Communist Party.

Comrades:—

At a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party, just held, it was decided to add the following definite proposals to our correspondence for unity:

1. That the joint convention be held as soon as possible, but not later than two months from the time of agreement by the joint convention committees.

2. That the matter of language federation form must go before the convention without prejudice and to that end we propose an agreement upon the following statement:

“It is agreed that the form of language federations as provided for in the constitution of both parties shall be accepted as a basis for discussion at the convention. Both parties agree to accept the decisions of the convention upon the question and will not permit any difference of opinion regarding this question to cause another split in Communist ranks.”

3. That the convention shall be composed of 35 delegates. We hold that the two parties today are of equal strength and that therefore each party should have an equal number of delegates. We have decided, however, to give the Communist Party an advantage in number of delegates because of its claim of a greater membership. On

the other hand we claim that membership numbers will not be considered by us to be the only nor main test of strength. A division of delegates, 15 for the Communist Labor Party and 20 for the Communist Party will be agreed to.

4. That no member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party nor of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party shall be a delegate, but that these officials shall have a voice without vote upon the convention floor.

5. Joint convention committee.

*[Alfred Wagenknecht],*  
Executive Secretary.

The above communication was presented to the Joint Convention Committee elected by the Communist Party [Charles Dirba, Max Cohen, Alexander Bittelman] by the Joint Convention Committee elected by the Communist Labor Party. A conference was then had at which no agreement was reached as to a basis of representation for the joint convention. It was eventually decided that the CP Joint Convention Committee go back to its executive to secure a mandate for an agreement upon a 12 to 23 basis of representation, whereas the CLP Joint Convention Committee was to return to its executive to decide whether or not to accept a 12 to 23 basis of representation or to base representation upon the average dues purchased in the months of March, April, and May [1920]. At the CLP National Executive Committee the following decision was reached, which was communicated to the CP executive.

*[See letter of March 31, 1920].*

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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