
Letter to Leonid Belsky in Chicago from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York, April 7, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archive, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 195, folder 10.

New York, April 7, 1920.

Dear Fisher [Belsky]:—

The enclosed copy of a statement which I will present to the Executive Council at a meeting called for tomorrow afternoon will inform you of a new situation which has developed out of the Chicago episode. In addition to what I reported to the Council it seems that other information reached members of the majority of the committee through connections they have.

The Council appointed Raphael [Alexander Bittelman] to go to Chicago with authority to remove you should he so decide. It may be that my ultimatum to the council will result in a reconsideration and a decision to take this authority from Raphael [Bittelman]. If so I will advise you after tomorrow's meetings.

My statement will inform you of the course which I intend to pursue. When Raphael [Bittelman] arrives I suggest that you meet him frankly and invite him to meet with the District Committee, permitting him to meet as many people as he can. At the same time the District Committee should place itself on record, in his presence, as refusing to permit the removal of the District Organizer and refusing to recognize any other district organizer until after the convention. In this

position you will have my support no matter what the consequences.

If in spite of this Raphael [Bittelman] makes an attempt to remove you, you should be in a position to at once place the case before the members. I have written my statement so that it will make a propaganda appeal against the majority and I suggest that you prepare to have it printed in various languages so that we can go to the membership at once IF THE BREAK COMES. I am placing myself in your hands by sending this statement to you and am trusting to you to take no action and make no use of it unless the other side precipitates matters by an attempt to remove you.

I will write you further as soon as there are developments. It may be that the majority of the council will be so foolhardy as to attempt to remove me as Executive Secretary and Acting Party Editor when they receive my statement. Such action would of course precipitate matters at once.

The number of delegates to the convention has been increased to 50, of which we have 32 and the CLP 18.

Fraternally yours,

[C.E. Ruthenberg]

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