
Letter to Leonid Belsky in Chicago from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York, May 4, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 195, folder 11.

New York, May 4, 1920.

Dear Fisher [Belsky]:—

I am enclosing herewith a tentative draft of the call for the Unity Conference between our group and the CLP. I will submit this to the CLP this afternoon for their consideration. I will not commit myself to acceptance of this proposition in every detail, but merely indicate that this is my personal idea, which I am submitting to them for discussion.

In the meantime I request that you go over this proposal with Comrades Stankovich, Kowalski, and Ferguson, and the full District Committee if that is possible, and let me have your opinion of the proposition.

I am of the opinion that this is the only basis on which we can achieve unity with the CLP and it seems to me that under the existing circumstances we must work toward that end. Up to this time the CP has the position of advantage as against the CLP, because it was the larger organization and stood for a more clear expression of Communist principles. If we united with the CLP and form the United Communist Party we will have assumed the dominating position and the Hourwich group will be isolated.

Once the two groups come together in a con-

vention the likelihood of splitting apart again is very remote. I am convinced that unity would be achieved by such a conference and at present it is the only way we can proceed.

It will probably be necessary to delay the convention at least one week. This is necessary for a number of reasons. Our own groups require more time to work up the district conventions and the CLP will require the additional time to get their delegates elected. Also, here in New York the dates we agreed upon have become generally known — only last night I heard Bernstein [Max Cohen] shouting them out before 30 to 40 people, and it would be very dangerous to adhere to the original date. You could go ahead with your plans for your district, even though the change is made elsewhere.

If after consideration you agree with this call please wire “we agree” and if our supporters here are of the same opinion, I will sign the call with the Executive Secretary of the CLP and we can publish it in the next paper.

Fraternally yours,

[C.E. Ruthenberg]
Executive Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.