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# Bulletin #2

## Agreement for a Unity Conference Between the Communist Party and Communist Labor Party, May 7, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 200, folder 20.

May 7, 1920

The following agreement has been reached for a Unity Conference between the two organizations:

In harmony with the position of the Third International that all parties which agree on the following fundamental principles shall unite:

1. Class war of the workers without compromise with the bourgeoisie and social patriotic parties.
2. Mass action of the working class as the means to conquer power.
3. Dictatorship of the proletariat.
4. Soviet constitution as the proper basis of proletarian democracy.

The Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party agree to meet in Unity Conference called for the purpose of uniting the two parties. The basis of this conference shall be:

1. The principles of communism as stated in the Manifesto and Program of the Communist Party are accepted as the basis principles upon which the two parties are in agreement.
2. Each party shall call a national convention which shall resolve themselves into a Unity Conference for the purpose of discussing unity between the two parties. Until unity is agreed upon, the delegates of each party shall vote as separate units and decisions must be reached by agreement.
3. If, in such preliminary discussion, an agreement for uniting the two groups of delegates is reached, then the delegates from the two parties shall unite and proceed with the work of adopting a Manifesto, Program, and Constitution and the election of officers for the united party.
4. In order to facilitate the work of the Unity Conference, a Joint Committee consisting of three members of each party shall meet one week before the convention to draft a Manifesto, Program, and Constitution, to be submitted to the Unity Conference.
5. It is understood that each party assumes the obligation to meet the expenses of its delegates. Should the two parties unite into one convention this obligation will

be assumed by the united party.

6. Arrangements for the Unity Conference shall be made jointly by the Executive Secretary of the Communist Party [C.E. Ruthenberg] and the Executive Secretary of the Communist Labor Party.

7. It is understood by both parties that the method of electing delegates is to be by membership action and is to be conducted secretly.

The above agreement for a Unity Conference places the question of unity in the hands of the delegates which will be elected by the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party membership.

If these delegates find that they are agreed on the fundamental principles which are to be expressed in the program of the united party, the two bodies of delegates will be united with such proportional representation as is included in the agreement.

The preliminary conference between the two groups of delegates will furnish the best opportunity for the discussion of principles in the Communist Party convention in Chicago. Everything was cut and dried — settled by caucus action — and the work of the convention was purely mechanical. Even the challenge of the Michiganites was overridden by votes and not by showing by argument that they were wrong.

It is not through such a convention that real agreement and understanding of fundamentals is secured. There must be discussion and debate on all points in our program, so that if there is disagreement the issues are made and a decision made understandingly, not merely by swallowing what a caucus has decided in advance.

The fact that there have been two parties claiming to be Communist parties has been one of the things that has prevented the development of a strong Communist Movement in this country. While the result of

this unity conference may still leave a faction of the Communist Party outside of the United Communist Party, this faction will not live long as a separate organization, but will soon be absorbed in the united party.

This Unity Conference opens the way for the reorganization of the Communists in a party that will be a real party of understanding and action.

David Damon [C.E. Ruthenberg],  
Executive Secretary.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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