
Letter to Alfred Wagenknecht in Cleveland from John Reed in New York, September 7, 1919.

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 439.

43 West 29th St., NY.
Sunday night [Sept. 7, 1919].

Dear Wagenknecht —

Here is the platform and program — including the labor program — revised for style. You will notice that in two places sentences or phrases have been left out. In one of these places — labor program, beginning part 3 — it was because it was a repetition of what follows; in the program proper (paragraph about voting, beginning “However, we do not ignore...”) it was because the clauses stricken cloud the meaning and will give rise to infinite argument.

The platform as drawn up and multigraphed contains a couple of errors, such as “the organization of the workers as class *for* the conquest, etc.” Since I introduced this clause, I want it changed. The list of delegates at the end is incomplete. Please send me a correct list of all who were seated, and fraternal delegates. We want to publish this stuff in NY.

We held a meeting tonight, a hastily-assembled but enthusiastic crowd from different branches. About three hundred. They are very much interested, especially in the report on our efforts to reconcile the two conventions. Send us full and complete copy of that right away, please, also all other reports and important

actions, and copy of constitution, as well as information about dues stamps, etc.

There is going to be a terrible fight in New York, but everybody so far seems to think that the CP has acted wrongly — everybody, that is, except the Michigan shouters and the Federation fanatics. We’ve got three branches, anyway, already.

Look out for the word “adopted” in last line of platform. Should be “adapted.”

Don’t join Communists without a referendum, and make them abandon Federation control.

The *Voice of Labor* managing committee doesn’t seem to be working very well yet. If I could get them to agree, could you take over ownership and control for the Labor Committee [of the Left Wing Section], and subsidize the paper about \$100 a week for two months?

Can we go ahead and print a few thousand copies of the program and platform for distribution here in New York at the expense of the National Office? It is very important, and at present we are broke. Please answer this by wire.

Yours,

Reed and Gitlow.
(signed) Reed.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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