

Minutes of the First Session of the Founding Convention of the Workers Party of America: New York — Dec. 23, 1921.

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Minutes of the first session of the Convention of the Workers Party of America held on Friday, December 23, 1921.

Called to order by J.L. Engdahl of the Secretarial Committee. Temporary Chairman — J.P. Cannon. Election of Credentials Committee: Lore, Weinstein, Trachtenberg, Bittelman, Wilenkin, Salutsky, Allison.

Recess for committee session.

The Credentials Committee reported in favor of seating 94 delegates representing the ALA as follows:

Finnish Socialist Federation	12
Hungarian Federation	3
Irish American Labor Alliance	1
Greek Socialist Union	2
South Slavic Workers Federation	2
Spanish Workers Union	1
Armenian Branch	1
Estonian Branch	1
Italian Section	4
German Section	2
Jewish Section	10
Lithuanian Section	3
Russian Section	5
Ukrainian Section	2

For the Workers Council — 13 delegates.

Arbeiter Bildungs Verein	13
Jewish Socialist Federation	12
Italian Marxist Federation	4
Scandinavian Socialist Labor Federation	2
Scandinavian Socialist Federation	2
Buffalo Socialist Labor Party Club	1

Fraternal representation was granted as follows:

Proletarian Party	3
Jewish Socialist Party, Left Poale Zion	4
IWW Committee for the Red Trade Union International	1
Young Workers League	2
Estonian <i>Uus Ilm</i>	1
Columbiana Political League	1
African Blood Brotherhood	2
Amalgamated Metal Workers	1

Application for representation of Marx-Engels Institute was denied.

Action deferred on application of Polish Left Socialist Federation and Slovak Workers Federation until further investigate by Credentials Committee.

MOTION: To accept report of committee. Carried.

Election of permanent officers:
For Chairman — Caleb Harrison;
Vice-Chairman — Margaret Prevey;

Secretariat: E.T. Allison, J.L. Engdahl, W.W. Weinstone.

Report of Executive of Joint Convention Committee on rules and order of business, as follows:

Rules of Order.

1. Roberts' Rules of Order to prevail.
2. 75 shall constitute a quorum.
3. Delegate speeches shall be limited to 5 minutes and no delegate shall be given the floor on any subject a second time until all other delegates have had an opportunity to speak.
4. Reporters for committees, including minority reporters, shall have 15 minutes, and shall have the right to speak after the discussion is closed.
5. Convention rules can be changed by a 2/3 majority.

Proposed Order of Business.

1. Member of Provisional Secretariat calls meeting to order, reads convention call, introduces the chairman of the Joint Conference Committee as Temporary Chairman.
2. Temporary chairman speaks.
3. Election of Credentials Committee. This Committee reports accredited delegates from signatories to the Call, invited organizations, and fraternal delegates.

4. Election of Permanent Chairman for the Day.
5. Election of Secretariat: 3 for the duration of the convention.
6. Election of Committees:
 - a) Program, Manifesto, and Resolutions (15)
 - b) Constitution and Organization (15)
 - c) Merger (13)
 - d) Finance
7. Reports of Committees:
 - a) Program, Manifesto, and Resolutions
 - b) Constitution and Organization
 - c) Merger
 - d) Finance
8. Location of Headquarters.
9. Election of the Central Executive Committee.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. Good and Welfare.
12. Adjournment.

Following committees were elected:
 Program Committee of 15
 Constitution Committee of 15
 Merger Committee of 13
 Finance Committee of 9
 Publicity Committee of 3

Motion to adjourn until 2:30 on Sunday afternoon [Dec. 25, 1921] carried.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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