

4 VIEWPOINTS CLASH AND STRIKE SPARKS

By ALAN MAX

In a scene that recalled the 1930's, spokesmen for differing viewpoints on the left shared a common platform Sunday night in Carnegie Hall.

More than 2,000 persons expressed their approval for one or

another point made by the speakers. An atmosphere which combined good humor and sharp differences seemed to pervade both platform and audience.

The forum was sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist organization, to demonstrate that the cause of civil rights

require that Communist as well as others views must be heard. The title of the forum was "America's Road to Democracy and World Peace." Speakers were Eugene Dennis, general secretary of the Communist Party; Norman Thomas, many-time Socialist Party candidate for President, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, the Negro scholar and historian, and the Rev. A. J. Muste, secretary emeritus of the Fellowship.

Roger N. Baldwin, former director of the American Civil Liberties Union and now chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, was moderator. He was introduced by Dr. Charles R. Lawrence, Jr., national chairman of the Fellowship.

While the formal presentations by the speakers held the close attention of the audience, it was when the speakers challenged one another and answered questions from the audience that the place crackled with excitement. This centered mainly around the question of whether it was possible to have a united front with the Communists.

Thomas started out by denying the possibility of such a united front now but ended by leaving the door open.

Rev. Muste, who himself asked for a "demonstration of deeds" be-

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High Court Reaffirms Slochower Decision

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The U. S. Supreme Court refused today to reconsider its April 9 ruling which barred New York City from summarily discharging school teachers who invoke the Fifth Amendment.

Peter Campbell Brown, corporation counsel, had asked the high court to reconsider its decision.

The suit, which challenged the constitutionality of New York City's charter, involved the dismissal of Harry Slochower, Professor of German and Literature at Brooklyn College. Slochower had refused to tell the Senate Internal Security subcommittee about his political affiliations.

In response to Brown's petition the court today did strike out one sentence from its April 9 opinion. It referred to Slochower's ignor-

ance that his claim of the privilege would mean his automatic discharge. The brief order added that "the comment was in no wise controlling of our decision."

A Brooklyn College spokesman said last week no order for Slochower's reinstatement has been received yet. He referred reporters to a previous statement that the professor will be reinstated and then suspended on the "broad professional ground that untruthfulness and perjury are conduct unbecoming a member of a college staff."

FOUR VIEWPOINTS AT CARNEGIE HALL

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fore accepting any united front, observed that "others of us may be limited by our own rigidities" and noted with approval that Thomas was "not pronouncing a series of absolutes."

Thomas called on Dennis to repudiate old American Communist writings, as well as writings of the Communist International. He called on the Communist leader to urge an end to one-party systems in socialist countries, to ask for the release of political prisoners in those countries, for the restoration of rights for the Kalmuck people in the USSR, and for agreement on inspection and control of disarmament.

In reply, Dennis said that some of these were serious questions, that many people considered all of them serious, and that he would be pleased to answer them all in the press or publicly at the length they require. By way of immediate and "off-hand" reply, Dennis declared that the writings referred to by Thomas had all been repudiated by the Party or rendered obsolete by history. He said it was "unfortunate" for Thomas to refer to them, since all of them were the very quotations that had been used as exhibits in the Smith Act trials.

Regarding political prisoners in the Soviet Union or other socialist lands, Dennis said that "if any Social-Democrat or other individual

has been imprisoned solely because of ideas or beliefs, I believe he should be freed."

As for a one-party system, Dennis noted that in most of the new socialist countries there was more than one party. "In our own country," he said, "I believe it is fully possible that there will be more than one party and that the Bill of Rights will be incorporated into the constitution of a socialist America."

In his turn, Dennis asked the other panelists their view on whether China should be admitted to the United Nations, since Baldwin, the moderator, had urged some discussion of the UN. Dr. DuBois and Rev. Muste agreed with Dennis on the need to admit China. Thomas assented that China must first agree to a temporary settlement of the Formosa question.

In answering questions sent up in writing by the audience, Dennis declared that American Communists "recognize we were wrong in the past in denying certain excesses and violations of socialist justice in the Soviet Union. But we are heartened as are millions of others by the deep-going self-correction now going on, and we are confident that conditions are being created to prevent any recurrence."

Despite their differences, all the panelists were agreed in many

points, including opposition to the Smith Act, the need to bar atomic war, the need for support to the struggle of the Negro people in the South.

Dr. DuBois, who gave an exposition of the rise of imperialism and of socialism in his opening presentation, remarked that "despite the negative position of Thomas, the left can be unified." He drew a laugh when he said that he doesn't understand Thomas—"all I can make out is that there seems to be something in Russia that he doesn't like."

The struggle in the South received much attention from the speakers. Rev. Muste declared that the Montgomery boycott was a triumph for a policy of non-violence. "Dare anyone suggest any other solution there?" he asked. "Then let us apply the method in other situations."

In his last remarks, Rev. Muste said that he was happy to have been the host and was "grateful to all the participants."

"I am glad the discussion was frank, intellectually hard-hitting and without bitterness. I hope we have set an example to be followed by others," he said.

Baldwin adjourned the forum with an expression of hope that the "peaceful co-existence which we have witnessed on this platform tonight will have a positive effect on the peace of the world."