

CANADA COMMUNISTS ISSUE DECLARATION OF POLICY

TORONTO—The sixth national convention of the Labor-Progressive Party, held here April 19-22, adopted the party's draft resolution, approved a new constitution, issued a policy declaration and an election platform, and outlined a plan of work for the coming period.

The main public activity projected by the convention for the members of the LPP was a campaign for a two-year suspension of H-bomb tests by all countries, leading to an eventual ban of nuclear weapons; and launching of the Federal election campaign, in which the LPP will nominate in a limited number of constituencies and support CCF and farmer-labor candidates in many others.

The "Declaration on the Party,"

which was adopted with an overwhelming vote, states:

"This is a time for all-round advance, in closest unity with the Canadian workers' and farmers' movements from which our Party sprang . . ."

Discussing the plan to draw up a new program, the declaration says, "The details of the path by which Canadians will travel towards socialism cannot be blue-printed at this time. Debate and discussion must now develop and flourish in the party as never before on such questions."

It notes that there has been sharp criticism of serious mistakes in leadership and policy and says,

(Continued on Page 7)

Canada CP

(Continued from Page 3)

"The continuation of this critical analysis by our membership is vital to the growth of our Party." The reaffirmation of Marxist principles, it says, must be the starting point of a fight against dogmatism and sectarianism, conceit, intolerance of varying opinions, and "the imposition of ideas as a substitute for patient discussion and persuasion."

3) The declaration hails the rising movement for independent labor political action and urges the LPP to work for a united anti-monopoly front, to include the trade union movement, farm organizations, CCF, LPP and other groups. It urged avoidance of "any tendency to curb or limit the widest discussion" on these and other questions, and appealed to all those who had dropped out of the LPP or become inactive to come back into its ranks.

J. B. Salsberg, Stewart Smith, Sam Lipshitz and several others, strongly opposed the main line of the declaration.

2) The convention approved a new constitution, to which many amendments were submitted.

Major amendments to the draft policy resolution, submitted by Norman Penner, Charles Sims, and one supported by a large section of the Quebec membership, were defeated. Alderman Jacob Penner of Winnipeg was unanimously elected national chairman of the LPP, while Tim Buck was returned as national leader. A new national committee of 51 members was chosen by the delegates.

Greetings were received from Communist Parties in Indonesia, Great Britain, the USSR, the USA, Poland, Israel and many other countries. Personal greetings were brought from the Mexican Communist Party by J. Encarnacion Valdez.

A large number of resolutions were presented to the resolutions committee, but because of lack of time many of these were referred to the incoming national committee for speedy discussion and action. One of these, dealing with the question of Jewish life and culture in the USSR, was submitted by the LPP's national Jewish committee.

This resolution asked the convention to endorse the statements of the May, 1956, national committee meeting of the LPP, and the October 12 national executive statement dealing with the problems of Soviet Jewish life. In brief, these statements were critical of the LPP's failure to raise the issue of the dissolution of Jewish cultural institutions in the USSR after this had been raised in the Party, and urged the Soviet Communist Party to support broad Jewish cultural activity in the USSR; adopt an authoritative statement condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and chauvinism, and establish the full rights of Jewish citizens; suggested the establishment of regular contacts between Soviet Jews and those of other parts of the world as a contribution to friendship, peace and understanding.

The resolution of the Jewish National Committee of the LPP further expressed regret that "no visible steps have as yet been taken by the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party towards the full restoration of the rights of Soviet Jews to their cultural activities in the Yiddish language wherever they desire it."

It proposed that the LPP establish a commission to deal further with this question and seek discussions with the Soviet Communist Party on the matter.