

Clark Resigns Daily Worker Post

JOSEPH CLARK, foreign editor of the Daily Worker and The Worker, has resigned from this post as well as from the Communist Party. Clark announced his resignation in a letter in the Daily Worker last Monday. Tuesday's Daily Worker published an article by John Gates, editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker and The Worker, giving his views on Clark's resignation.

In his letter Clark stated he was resigning from both the paper and the party "because I find it is no longer possible to serve the cause of American socialism through them." He expressed the belief that the party "has become a hindrance rather than a means for advancing socialism."

Citing the loss of 7,000 of the 17,000 Communist Party members in the past year, Clark said that "the demise of the party is related to that of every other socialist movement in our country since the days of the first Marxists here. Not content with growing directly out of the struggles of the American people, and basing themselves on the specific conditions of American life, these movements have unwittingly tried to impose their dogmas on the struggles."

Clark stated that "the hope and promise" of the party's 16th national convention, held last February, "have not been fulfilled." As confirmation he cited the discussion concerning his own work at the last National Committee meeting on July 27-28.

"IT IS MY VIEW," Clark said, "that to advance the all-important goal of American-Soviet freindship one must win the people for strong

opposition to the cold war diplomacy of John Foster Dulles. But to do this one must also take a critical view of what is wrong in the Soviet Union."

Clark expressed disagreement with the way the Daily Worker handled the recent ouster of Molotov, Malenkov and others from the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party and government. He also stated that "socialism can be served only by a complete break with Stalinism."

"Within our own country," Clark wrote, "communism has made an important contribution to the welfare of the people. A high-point was reached in the decade of 1935-45. We were to some degree in the mainstream of American labor and of the country . . . But that is past and no movement can live in the past."

IN HIS ARTICLE Gates expressed "deep regret" at Clark's resignation. "It is a cause of concern," he wrote, "when a person like Clark, who continues to profess his intention to keep fighting for socialism, concludes he can no longer serve that cause effectively in the Communist Party and on the Daily Worker."

"It is easy to condemn Clark for his action," Gates continued, "and necessary to disagree with mistaken views that he may hold. Far more difficult is it to analyze the fundamental causes of the loss of 45 percent of our membership in the past year, of which the resignation of Clark is another symptom."

Gates disagreed with Clark "that the Communist Party has become a hindrance to socialism. A struggle, Gates said, is now going on

in the party." This struggle, Gates said, is between those who support and those who oppose the new policies adopted by the national convention.

"This is a real struggle," he continued, "and has not yet come to a definitive conclusion. The resignation of people from the party only weakens the struggle of those who want to see the great hope and promise of the national convention fulfilled. In my opinion, the development of these policies has been retarded by their opponents. But they have not been destroyed or reversed as Clark seems to believe."

GATES ALSO expressed differences over some of the evidence he cited that "the opposite trend is dominant and winning in the party."

"Clark's undifferentiated criticism of the leadership of the USSR," Gates wrote, "his lumping everybody in the same pot does not help the process of democratic socialist advance in the Soviet Union . . ."

"The total evidence about our party and its 16th national convention smashes the Hoover-Brownell myth that our party is a foreign agency — a myth which Harry Schwartz of the New York Times sought to perpetuate in his handling of the Clark resignation story yesterday."

"The real issue in my opinion is not Clark," Gates stated. "It is whether the party will move decisively to fulfill the new policies of the national convention and rout those who are trying to reverse them. Only such a course will solve the crisis in the party."