

Communist Party Issues National Convention Call

A CALL to its 16th national convention, to be held in New York City Feb. 9-12, was issued by the national committee of the Communist Party this weekend. The call, addressed to all party districts, state committees, sections and clubs, gives the basis for representation at the convention. It also proposes that all section and district conventions of the Communist Party be held in two parts, one prior to and the other after the national gathering.

Delegates are to be elected on the basis of membership, determined by average dues payments through the first ten months of 1956, according to the call.

"Each district Party organization," the call states, "shall be entitled to elect:

"a) two delegates where the total membership is 50 or less;

"b) three delegates for the first 100 members, and three for each additional 100 members up to 600; and

"c) two delegates for each additional 100 members above 600."

Alternate delegates with voice but no vote may also be elected by each district up to 25 percent of the total number to which it is entitled.

THE CALL ALSO announces the levying of an assessment of \$2 on each employed party member and 50 cents on each unemployed member or housewife in order to help defray the convention expenses.

The call describes America as part of "a new world situation and a new relationship of forces." It cites the united labor movement, the civil rights struggles of the Negro people and many white citizens, and the promise of atomic energy and new technological developments. It singles out monopoly capital as the force that assaults the living standards and liberties of the people and blocks the road to progress. The call adds:

"The American people stand on the threshold of great democratic advance. In crossing this threshold—and it can be crossed only by the most determined and united struggle—there is lost ground to be recovered as well as ground to be won. There are new vistas of peace; of a successful struggle against poverty and economic insecurity; of progress in housing, health and education; of securing full citizenship for the Negro people, undoing the evils of McCarthyism and Eastlandism, and achieving new gains for democracy."

DESCRIBING THE Communist Party as "at the most critical juncture in its history, the call points out the need to correct "past errors and strengthen its ties with the American working class and peo-

Edna Winston Appeals For Christmas Amnesty

IN A LETTER addressed to friends of civil liberties throughout the country, Mrs. Edna Winston, wife of Henry Winston, former organizational secretary of the Communist Party, asks them to write President Eisenhower urging a Christmas amnesty for Winston and other Smith Act prisoners.

Winston is now at Terra Haute Federal Prison serving an eight-year sentence under the Smith Act. As a member of the Communist Party's national committee he was one of the original group of 11 defendants tried and convicted in 1949 on a trumped-up charge of "conspiring to teach and advocate the necessity of overthrowing the government of the United States by force and violence." Winston has two children, Larry, 9, and Judy, 6.

"The only force and violence connected with my husband," Mrs. Winston's letter states, "is that connected with millions of other young Americans—his service in the armed forces of our nation. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1942, two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served with honor for close to four years in a jimcrow outfit and was awarded a certificate of merit in recognition of conspicuous meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty. A son of the Negro people, Henry Winston has fought against the force and violence visited against his people. He has fought all his life not for violence but for peace and democratic rights for the Negro people and for all Americans.

★

"On JULY 2, 1951 my husband was to surrender to the court to begin his five-year term. Rightly or wrongly, he chose the difficult and thorny path of becoming a

ple's movement."

In preparation for the convention the call urges "the fullest democratic discussion . . . in all districts, leading committees and clubs. The national Draft Resolution and other pre-convention materials should be given the widest



WINSTON

political refugee, an exile from his family and friends for nearly five years—the agonies of which you may well imagine.

"On March 5, 1956 he surrendered voluntarily at the U.S. Courthouse in New York. . . .

"By husband is now serving an eight year term, having been given an additional three-year sentence for contempt of court after his voluntary surrender."

The letter points out that "many distinguished Americans, despite their strong disagreements with Communism, feel this way. Only last Christmas Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Norman Thomas, Rev. A. J. Muste, Prof. Henry Steele Commager, B. F. McLaurin, Elmer Rice and 40 others sent an open letter to President Eisenhower urging that he free all Smith Act prisoners from jail.

possible distribution among all members, and also among other workers who are or have been in close association with our Party. Special means should be devised to assure that the opinions of those unable to attend Party meetings are registered in the discussions."