

# CP ISSUES STATEMENT ON CLARK RESIGNATION

The National Administrative Committee of the Communist Party yesterday issued the following statement on the resignation of Joseph Clark from the party and the Daily Worker, of which he was foreign editor:

By his own choice, Joseph Clark, foreign editor of the Daily Worker, has resigned from the Communist Party. Despite numerous disagreements with Clark's position on various questions, the National Committee at no time sought his ouster from the party. On the contrary, his right to dissent from the majority viewpoint as guaranteed by the party constitution adopted at the 16th national convention last February was upheld by the National Committee. It is true that Clark's position on some questions was vigorously criticized at the National Committee meeting. It is equally true that the National Committee overwhelmingly rejected a recommendation to the Daily Worker to shift him from foreign editor to another post. Whatever the merits of this, certainly it is a fact that the position of the 16th convention against purge politics and for persuasion as a basic inner-party method was upheld. **Clark's resignation is clearly not the result of lack of democracy in the Communist Party.**

The question goes deeper than this. It was not because of Clark's exercise of the right to dissent that he was criticized, but because of his abuse of this right. This was expressed in a resolution adopted by the National Committee, which states in part:

**"The use of posts of leadership in the Party or institutions supporting the Party, to campaign for personal opinions in opposition to the majority decisions of the Party is impermissible and a misuse of a Party trust, depriving the membership of its right to equal influence in the democratic shaping of the course of our Party"**

It is the violation of this principle on more than one occasion by Clark that the National Committee regards as indefensible.

Clark's position is that the "hope and promise" of the 16th National Convention, which he greeted, have not been fulfilled. The truth of the matter is that the promises of the 16th National Convention are being fulfilled. As to the "hopes" of Clark, insofar as they conflict with the decisions of the

National Convention, they have become the source of friction and the real basis for his resignation.

The 16th National Convention, as Clark admits, "affirmed its American character and its dedication to constitutional democracy" and "proclaimed its independence and came out against dogmatism and sectarianism." It also "promised a search for new paths and new organizational means through which the American people would arrive at socialism."

The Convention determined that the main historic danger to the Party was left sectarianism and that in carrying out the main task of defeating this danger, the Party must struggle against existent Right-opportunist tendencies.

But it did more. It adopted a new Party Constitution in which it declared the basis of its theory to be "the scientific, humanist and democratic heritage of mankind and particularly the principles of scientific socialism as developed by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and V. I. Lenin." It added: "These universally valid principles the Communist Party of the U.S.A. interprets, applies and strives to develop further in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle, democratic traditions and customs."

Clark claims that the last meeting of the National Committee caused him to lose faith in the capacity of the Party to win out in the stubborn struggle for the policies of the 16th National Convention. We submit that this estimate of Clark is completely erroneous.

Let us look at the facts.

Certainly the Eugene Dennis report on the developing movement for peace and against the H-bomb and calling for "public ownership and operation of all nuclear research production and facilities" proves the opposite. Likewise the report to the National Committee meeting by Secretary of Organization Sid Stein for "reconstruction of the very foundations of our movement" proves the very contrary of Clark's contention. This report reflected a continuation of the fight to carry

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through the decisions of the 16th National Convention.

The discussion and votes on these Reports are proof positive that the National Committee is determined to carry forward the decisions of the 16th National Convention.

Today, the Party is engaged in a determined effort, along with millions of other Americans, to win the complete integration of the Negro people in the nation's life, to ban the H-bomb, and to advance the economic welfare of the American working people. In New York, these efforts are being spurred on by the campaign to place Elizabeth Gurley Flynn on the ballot for City Council, a campaign in which hundreds of our friends are giving all their energies.

Once again it is clear that Clark cannot in fact justify his resignation on that basis. The "grain of truth" in Clark's argument is that the decisions of the 16th National Convention are not coming to life without struggle. But this is no cause for resignation—rather it is a challenge to every Communist to greater efforts and more effective participation. We are confident that Clark's action will not deter them from making these efforts, and that they will reject Clark's contention that the Party is in any way whatever an obstacle to the achievement of socialism.

If the struggle is proceeding slowly and with difficulty, it is because of the deep crisis through which the Party is passing. Confronted with the new problems facing the Party and every individual Communist, and unable to cope with them in a Marxist-Leninist way, Clark has become disoriented. He has lost his theoretical bearings. Unable to see that this crisis is a passing though painful stage in the Party's life, he has lost faith in the Party and its future. He cannot see that the Party is moving to overcome the crisis, and that it has a future of new and significant growth and influence. Clark has become a casualty of the crisis.

But Clark goes beyond mere loss of faith. He asserts that the Communist Party has become a hindrance to the advancement of socialism. This is more than dissatisfaction. It places him as an opponent of the Party—as one who believes that the cause of socialism can best be served by its liquida-

tion. We submit that in rejecting this need for the Communist Party, he is denying the need for an American working-class party based on the principle of scientific socialism as defined in the Party Constitution. But thousands of Communists and non-Communists as well, recognize the indispensability of the Communist Party in the fight for progress and socialism. These will not be deterred by Clark's disorientation and loss of perspective. And thousands more will come, as a result of their experience, to appreciate the role of the Party.

Disoriented and confused by the slanderous "foreign agent" charge levelled against the Party, Clark has lost all conception of a sound working-class attitude toward the Soviet Union. This attitude is stated in the Convention resolution, which declares that "the Soviet Union, People's China and the people's democracies of Eastern Europe are socialist countries." It attacked the Big Business policy of inciting hostility against these nations and pointed out that our attitude towards them was based on "the great principle of working-class internationalism." "At the same time," the Resolution said, "the Communist Party recognizes that over the years . . . the Party also viewed uncritically developments in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries." The Resolution declared as fundamental that "socialism is strengthened, not weakened, by the fraternal and constructive criticism of Marxists of many lands."

The Daily Worker editorial attitude toward the recent changes in the Soviet Union is based on its conviction that these best serve the promotion of peaceful coexistence. Its reaction to the UN report on Hungary was based on the fact that it is a document designed to serve those who promote war. In his rejection of these positions, Clark's statement distorts the Party's policy of promoting American-Soviet friendship and peaceful coexistence. It gives grist to the mills of those who seek to exploit the "foreign agent" lie.

On its part, the NAC will not be diverted from implementing the decisions of the 16th national convention by the policies or actions of a Clark. It will also oppose all dogmatist and sectarian tendencies to reverse the line of the convention. We intend to continue our fight to reconstruct our Party and win back many who have dropped out, so that our Party can play its full role in the fight for peace, security and democracy. In this struggle the American workers and their allies, in their own good time, will find the American road to socialism within the developing constitutional process.

On the basis of the 16th Convention decisions, there is room for all in our Party who believe in socialism and a socialist America—for all who believe in our Party's program, constitution and future. We urge Clark to reconsider his mistaken views and the harmful action resulting from them.

The NAC is confident that the Party will continue to fight for the unity of its ranks, the integrity of its theory and the decisions of the 16th Convention. It will strive to participate ever more effectively in today's great struggles.

National Administrative Comm.  
CPUSA

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## Clerical Workers

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### Candidate for City Council

### 24th Senatorial Dist. Headquarters—

### 15 Second Avenue