

# COMMUNIST PARTY ISSUES

## TEXT OF ITS CONSTITUTION

The Communist Party made public yesterday the complete text of the party's new constitution adopted at its 16th National Convention, Feb. 9-12, in New York.

The constitution's preamble terms the Party "an American workingclass political organization which bases itself upon the principles of scientific socialism."

It calls for the defense of democracy and "the immediate and fundamental interests of the workers, farmers, the Negro people and all others who labor by hand and brain, against capitalist exploitation and oppression."

Describing the methods of achieving socialism, the preamble declares:

"The Communist Party holds that there are various roads to socialism and that the working people of our nation will find their own road to socialism. We advocate a peaceful, democratic road to socialism through the political and economic struggles of the American people within the developing constitutional process."

The preamble emphasizes the struggle against racism, declaring that the party "regards the struggle to wipe out the system of jim-crowism and to win immediate and full citizenship and unconditional equality for the Negro people as basic to the fight for democracy."

On the question of the foundation theory of the party, the preamble states:

"The Communist Party bases its theory generally on the scientific humanist and democratic heritage of mankind generally and particularly on the principles of scientific socialism as developed by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and V. I. Lenin. 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."

Article II of the constitution

states the party's purposes thus:

"The purposes of this organization are: through the exercise of democratic and constitutional rights and participation in the electoral process and other forms of political activity, to promote the welfare of the working people of the United States, defend and extend their democratic rights, help unite them against monopoly control of the economic and political life of our nation, and organize to eliminate the scourge of economic crisis, unemployment, poverty, racism and war through the establishment of socialism by the free and democratic choice of a majority of the people."

The constitution stipulates repeatedly that election to party committees shall be by secret ballot and majority vote with the power of recall by a two-thirds vote.

Another article calls for antinational referendums to be taken on "major policy changes."

The constitution specifically provides for the right of dissent by members in disagreement with majority policies and mandates the issuance of a special party publication for dissenting views. Factional activities, however, are prohibited.

An article of the constitution obliges "all party members to struggle against all forms of national oppression, national chauvinism, discrimination and segregation, against all ideological influences and practices of 'racial' theories, such as white chauvinism and anti-Semitism."

Another article calls for expulsion from the party of any member "who is a strike-breaker, a provocateur, engaged in espionage, an informer, or who adheres to . . . any group or party which conspires or acts to subvert, undermine, weaken or overthrow any institutions of American democracy through which the majority of the American people can maintain their right to determine their destinies."