

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Except Canada and Foreign)	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
DAILY WORKER and THE WORKER .....	\$4.75	\$8.00	\$13.00
DAILY WORKER .....	4.00	7.00	12.00
THE WORKER .....		2.00	3.50
(Except Canada and Foreign)	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year

## A MAJOR STEP

"IN SURROUNDINGS, atmosphere and morale a more vivid contrast with the quadrennial meetings of our two great national parties could hardly be imagined," wrote the New York Times editorially (Feb. 11) about the 16th national convention of the Communist Party.

The Times is dead right, but in a sense quite different from that intended. Here were over 300 delegates, not hand-picked by party bosses (as is customary, with some exceptions, at GOP and Democratic conventions), but democratically elected by the rank and file after months of intensive discussion about the problems they were to act on.

And the conduct of the convention, its free-wheeling discussion and the give-and-take atmosphere in which all points of view had full play was in refreshing contrast to the quadrennial stage-managed affairs of the two big business parties.

NO CANDIDATES were forced down the delegates' throats a la Richard Nixon. And most vivid contrast of all: not a plug nickel from the Du Ponts, Rockefellers, Mellons, etc., who pour millions into the campaigns of the parties they control and influence.

This was a crucial convention. It would be silly to be pollyanna-ish about it and say there's now smooth sailing ahead. But the working men and women who met Feb. 9-12 deserve great credit for confounding the hopes and speculations of big business and its press that the Communist Party would split.

The delegates prevented a rupture and achieved unity by adopting decisions that, as we see it, move the Communist Party forward toward overcoming its relative isolation from the masses of the American people. This is a unity based on principle, on the science of social development — Marxism-Leninism — as applied to the American scene.

This dynamic unity was expressed in all major decisions. Among them were:

- A peaceful, constitutional American road to socialism.
- Continuation as the Communist Party rather than changing to another type of organization, though leaving the door open for further exploration and discussion of this problem.
- Recognition that to end their relative isolation the main job of Communists is "to overcome left sectarianism in all fields," while also combatting "existing Right opportunism."
- An independent position in relation to other Communist Parties and socialist governments as well as in the application of Marxist-Leninist principles to American conditions, while never losing sight of the main enemy—U.S. monopoly capital.
- A new constitution that makes party structure more democratic and embodies the right of dissent.
- A new approach to those forces in American life, including certain trade union leaders, who are the counterparts of the European Social Democrats—an approach which seeks cooperation with these forces without blurring fundamental differences with them.
- A program of work for all Communists with its main emphasis on the battle for Negro rights and the fight for peace.

NOT ALL DIFFERENCES were resolved; this will take time and the test of experience. And the Communists still have a long way to go to recover the influence and prestige they had in the thirties. But we feel the convention took a major step in that direction.

Whatever one's views, the Communist Party, the largest organized group of Americans who believe in socialism, is a legitimate current in American life. We believe that American workers, the American people generally, as they become better acquainted with what Communists stand for, will welcome the vital contribution they can make in the battle for a better America and a better world.