

WELCOME, DELEGATES

MORE THAN 350 men and women, most of them working people, are meeting in New York this weekend as well as tomorrow and Tuesday to decide the future course of the Communist Party of the United States.

They are people who believe that socialism—the public ownership of the factories, banks, transportation system and natural resources under a government led by the workingclass—has much more to offer the American people in economic well-being, democracy and peace than the big business-controlled capitalist system.

The American Communists have for years been a target for the FBI thought-controllers, the Congressional witch-hunters, the labor-haters, war-mongers and other reactionaries. Yet despite persecution, the Communists have contributed richly to the people's struggles in many areas.

Today the Communists are considering important changes in their approach to many questions and methods of work. Their convention comes after months of democratic, self-critical examination of past activity, focusing especially on errors since the end of World War II.

We believe America needs the Communist Party. We hope that out of this convention will come the direction, clarity and unity to enable the party to forge ahead and join with thousands of other progressive Americans in the battle for America's future.

Heartiest greetings to the delegates to the 16th national convention of the Communist Party.