

FOSTER EXPLAINS HIS VOTE AGAINST DRAFT RESOLUTION

William Z. Foster, chairman of the American Communist Party, yesterday took sharp exception to the draft resolution adopted by the Party's national committee, declaring that: "As the resolution now stands, our Party ceases to be specifically a Marxist-Leninist party."

In an article scheduled for publication in the October issue of Political Affairs and released yesterday by the magazine, Foster explains his reasons for voting against

tors of the Daily Worker to the effect that the Party's fight against the war danger was both wrong and fruitless. This was a blow at the very foundations of the hard-pressed Party's morale. They abandoned, too, the Party position that American imperialism was striving for world domination.

Significantly, they also resurrected some of Browder's discredited revisionist conceptions. This disruptive agitation, which tended to shield American imperialism from attack and disintegrated the mass struggle for peace, was not without negative effects in the Party, especially in view of the prominence of the writers concerned.

"A second blow against the Party's political unity," Foster wrote, "came in connection with the Party discussion of the Stalin cult of the individual. Naturally, our members were deeply shocked by these revelations. However, by and large, the extensive Party discussion was sound and healthy, and it brought forth many important lessons which our Party must be alert to absorb. More than a few comrades, however, developed negative attitudes, even verging into liquidation. These wrong views included bitter attacks upon the Soviet Union, upon our Party, and upon its whole leadership."

Foster denounced what he termed a "strong Right tendency in the Party," which he said was opposed to "the building of a Marxist-Leninist Party in the U.S." Foster coupled this with "a new Browderism" which he said is "developing in the Party."

Foster said, "Some comrades, while repudiating Browder's crassest forms of bourgeois reformism and his ultimate renegacy from Communism, would resurrect what was 'good' in his system. They look back nostalgically to the late 1930's when the Party was making substantial progress, overlooking the vastly more favorable situation then existing, when the Party was going along freely in harmony with the general mood of the working class and under a not hostile government, in the fight against Hitlerism and for the trade union organization of the basic industries; in contrast to the harsh persecutions suffered by the Party during the cold war years and its considerable conflict with the general mood of the working class regarding the origin of the war threat."

Foster declared that John Gates, editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker,

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the Resolution. Foster's was the only negative vote on the Resolution in the National Committee.

Foster criticized Eugene Dennis, CP general secretary, for not concentrating his report to the April meeting of the national committee "upon the urgent tasks necessary for restrengthening the weakened Communist Party." Instead, Foster charged, Dennis "took on the additional task of making a detailed estimate of the work of the Party throughout the entire period of the Cold War."

This analysis by Dennis, Foster continued, "conducted in the spirit of the extreme self-criticism characteristic of the Stalin discussion, produced dubious results. Among them were: a) a serious underestimation of the war danger and generally of the adverse objective and adverse subjective conditions faced by the Party during the period in question; b) a big underplay of the essentially correct role and of the various achievements of the Party, and c) a great overestimation of the Party's errors and shortcomings."

The Party chairman traced the origin of these developments as he saw them, as follows:

"The first serious element of political confusion in the Party began early in 1954, with the agitation of Comrade Clark and ex-Comrade Starobin, successively foreign edi-

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is an outstanding leader of what he called the "Right tendency." The party chairman said the C.P. leadership was responsible for allowing this tendency to become strong.

"Concentrating exclusively upon the fight against Left-sectarianism," Foster wrote, "the national Party leadership for several months paid no attention to the developing Right tendency, denying that it even existed. The result was that the latter, of whom Comrade Gates is one of the outstanding spokesmen, had a free hand and it grew rapidly in the uncertain Party situation. It entrenched itself in the Daily Worker and in the New York State Committee, and it also secured a following in various districts.

"A sharp factional attack was developed by the Gates tendency upon the Dennis Party leadership. At the August meeting, however, this open fight subsided when the National Committee cut the term 'Marxism - Leninism' from the Party's Preamble and also made conditional our support of Marxism-Leninism in the Resolution.

"The Gates forces voted for all this obviously in the expectation that it constituted steps toward the eventual elimination of Marxism-Leninism from our Party life. They also urged and supported the Resolution's serious exaggeration of Party errors, its overstress upon the slogan for a new party of Socialism and its abandonment of democratic centralism.

"The strong Right pressure of the Gates group has resulted in seriously undermining the Party's position on Marxism-Leninism. The Resolution, however, finally recognizes, although inadequately, that there is a Right danger in the Party, as well as the major 'Left' danger."

Foster said that the manner of the National Committee endorsement of Marxism-Leninism was incorrect, charging that it "made the qualification that we would endorse Marxism-Leninism only in the sense that it is 'interpreted' by the CPUSA."

The section of the draft resolution dealing with this matter, which is criticized by Foster, states:

"The principles of scientific socialism were put forward by Marx and Engels. They were further developed in the imperialist era by Lenin. They were later enriched by contemporary Marxists in many countries. Basing ourselves on these Marxist-Leninist principles as interpreted by the Communist Party of our country, we must learn much better how to extract from the rich body of this theory that

which is universally valid, combining it with the specific experiences of the American working class in the struggle for socialism in the U. S. The Party must distinguish better between the additions to Marxist theory made by Lenin which are valid for all countries and those specific aspects of Lenin's writings which reflect exclusively certain unique features of the Russian Revolution of Soviet society."

Foster's article concludes with the confident statement that the coming national convention of the party will eliminate Left-sectarianism as well as "this Right tendency (which) is now menancing the Marxist-Leninist foundations of the Party."

The covering letter of the national committee of the C.P. accompanying the draft resolution states that discussion of the resolution in preparation for the convention will start Nov. 1 and that other members of the committee will explain their votes in favor.

Citizens Union Rates Assembly Candidates

The Citizens Union yesterday announced its non-partisan endorsement of nine of 35 candidates for 16 seats in the State Assembly from Manhattan. It rated seven others as qualified and preferred.

Four of the endorsements were in two districts. In the Greenwich Village and Lower Midtown First Assembly District the Citizens Union had high praise for both Assemblyman William F. Passananta, Democrat with Liberal backing, and his Republican opponent, Mrs. Elsabelle Field. It expressed no preference between them.

In the midtown 9th A.D. the Citizens Union expressed a preference for Republican Assemblyman John Robert Brook, but gave its highest rating of endorsement to Democratic-Liberal candidate Miss Alive Sachs.

Of the four women candidates in various districts, the Citizens Union endorsed three, Mrs. Field, Miss Sachs and Mrs. Mary deGroat Reed, Democratic-Liberal candidate in the East-Midtown 8th A.D.

The fourth woman, Mrs. Bessie Buchanan, present Democratic Assemblywoman from the East Harlem 12th O.D., was recommended for reelection as qualified and preferred.