

# Illinois Communists Work Out New Program of Activity

**CHICAGO.** — The recently-concluded final session of the Illinois Communist Party convention overwhelmingly approved a program for the mobilization of the party in defense of the rights of labor, the Negro people and youth.

The convention also adopted a program that is to serve as a general guide for its work in the various Chicago communities,

By unanimous action, the convention reelected Claude Lightfoot as state chairman, Gil Green, former state chairman of the Illinois Communist Party now imprisoned at Leavenworth as a result of conviction under the Smith Act, was elected as a member of the new state committee, on leave. The convention greeted both elections with enthusiasm.

The convention, which voted that all other state officers would be elected by the incoming state committee, also elected 12 members at-large to the new state committee and four members to the national committee.

★

**CLAUDE** Lightfoot, in a report to the convention, discussed the overall problems facing  
(Continued on Page 15)

# ILLINOIS COMMUNISTS PLAN PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY

(Continued from Page 16)

the Communist Party as well as some of the particular problems in the state of Illinois. In dealing with the problem of the party overcoming its isolation, he said:

"Will the objective conditions which have prevailed in the past continue to operate in the same way in the future? It is our opinion that they will not. These, too, will undergo considerable change and make it possible to visualize in the coming period increasing opportunities to end our isolation. We still need a basic analysis of the economic situation, but there is enough material already on hand with which to see that this problem will not remain the same as in the past."

In dealing with the building of the anti-monopoly coalition, Lightfoot said, "Life is creating the objective conditions for uniting the three main streams of the democratic rights movement in our country—the civil liberties movement (which has centered its attention on the defense of the First Amendment), the Negro liberation movement and the labor movement."

Referring to the special role that is to be played by Communists at this time, he said: "There is no other force today on the American scene which has placed the objective (of an anti-monopoly coalition) before the country. True, there are many forces within the labor and Negro people's movement who are struggling to unify their efforts against a common foe, but none places this problem in such a rounded-out manner as a guide point for progress."

In his remarks, Lightfoot, who had been elected as a member of the national committee at the national convention of the party last month, placed **great stress** on the problems facing the labor movement. He called for the greatest mobilization of all progressive forces to defeat the so-called right-to-work law introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives. He emphasized that labor unity means more than just mergers, that it means unity of Negro and white, unity in political action, unity of skilled and unskilled workers.

He emphasized the need for the mobilization of the working class behind the 30-hour week demand as well as the organization of the unorganized in Illinois. Great stress was placed in the report on the historic as well as immediate need for the organization of the workers in the South.

A section of the report dealt with the question of the fight for Negro rights. He called for an end to segregation in the state of Illinois. The report emphasized that this would be a signal contribution to the national campaign against segregation. In this respect, he underscored the weaknesses that prevailed within the labor movement in regard to integration. He urged that Communists and others within the labor movement seek, in the most energetic manner, to correct the lag on this question that exists in the ranks of large sections of the organized labor movement.

The internal problem of the Communist Party on the question of Negro-white unity also received considerable attention in the report. The report concluded with a ringing demand for an end to all factional groups and methods of work in the party. He urged the fullest unity of the party for the carrying out of the program adopted at the convention.

A resolution dealing with the problems within the labor movement was the first one placed before the convention for action. It centered its attention on the anti-labor attack in Illinois and stated, "The proposed Illinois right-to-work law becomes the number one challenge to the people's forces in our state."

Other sections of the resolution spelled out the urgent need for labor unity in its manifold aspects in Illinois, and the impending campaigns in the labor movement for the shorter work-week. The resolution also called for the entire party organization to concern itself with the problems of the labor movement.

A special resolution entitled "Chicago and the fight for Negro Rights," which placed major stress on the need for integrated housing in Chicago was adopted. Support for certain legislative proposals now pending in Springfield was indicated in the resolution. The resolution also addressed itself to the problems of equality of Negro and white in the Chicago public schools.

A third aspect of this resolution was the question of jobs for Negro people and the need to end all forms of discrimination in hiring as well as in upgrading.

One section of this resolution, entitled "Tasks of the Party," dealt with the need on the part of the

party to more deeply concern itself with all of the needs of the Negro people. It also called for a continuous fight against the ideology of racism in the life of Chicago. It called for the strengthening of the party in the South Side area and stressed the need for a study in the ranks of the party on the national question.

The three major questions stressed in a resolution on community work were housing, expanded school facilities, and independent political action. The committee, in introducing this resolution stated, "What we are recommending today is a minimum program of action. This is not a platform for the city of Chicago, nor is it intended as a blueprint to be followed indiscriminately by all communities."

A special resolution on youth work was the subject of spirited discussion on the convention floor. Some of the aspects dealt with in the resolution concerned the special problems of teenage youth. The convention agreed that a special conference on youth work would be held shortly.

The convention adopted a set of bylaws and also received a report from a special auditing committee.

## Anti-Labor Bill

(Continued from Page 16)

who have expressed an opinion in opposition to this bill, most declared that they were fearful of any reliance on Governor Stratton. The continued stress by some of Illinois labor leaders on Stratton's promises of veto seems to have made some of the local union leaders all the more determined to build a grass roots movement against the bill. The bad taste of the phoney promises of Indiana's governor are too fresh in labor's memory to be easily forgotten.

## Celebrate Birthday of Union Veteran

CHICAGO. — Sixty-five friends and co-workers last week joined with Harry J. Canter, veteran progressive trade unionist, to celebrate his 65th birthday and to make the 45th year of his activity in the labor movement. The committee which sponsored the affair announced that the proceeds of more than \$75 were turned over to The Worker at Canter's request. Canter has long been a supporter of The Worker.

Wires of congratulations from many friends throughout the country, including Boston, New York

## What's On

FILM FORUM presents "Symphony of Life" lusty, tuneful Soviet film about a wounded war veteran who rebuilds his career and love. Chopin Club, 1547 N. Leavitt. Sun. April 21, 3 p.m. Adm. 90 cents.

PUBLIC RALLY to free Steve Tandaric and fight his deportation Tuesday, April 16, 8 p.m. U.E. Hall, 37 S. Ashland. Adm. 50 cents. Sponsored by Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.