

# INDEPENDENCE, UNITY CP PARTY KEYNOTE

## Oil Price Grab Hit by Kefauver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10—Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) said today there is "no economic justification" for the recent hike in oil and gasoline prices.

Kefauver heads a Senate anti-monopoly subcommittee which has teamed up with a Senate interior subcommittee in an investigation of the oil-gas price increases and emergency oil shipments to Europe.

He said the inquiry has shown that the emergency shipments are not meeting the critical need for oil created in Europe by the Suez Canal shutdown.

Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo), chairman of the joint group, said Saturday the committee plans to question Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton next week on whether he ordered aides not to testify about the oil price hikes.

Kefauver, in an interview for Tennessee television stations, said he was "disappointed in the attitude" of Government officials. He said they felt "no responsibility" to protect the public from gasoline price increases.

He said the government relaxed anti-trust laws for 15 major oil companies which compose the Middle East Emergency Committee so they could combine efforts to ship oil to Europe.

"One of the first results of this program was an increase in the gasoline prices here in the United States—bringing home to all of us the fact that the Middle Eastern Emergency is only as far away as the corner filling station," he said.

"There is no shortage of gasoline in the United States," Kefauver said, "Nor is there any falling of revenues in the companies to justify an increase."

Kefauver said the United States now is shipping about 456,000 barrels of oil a day to Europe. The Government's goal is 500,000.

He said the joint committee hearings are designed to find out whether the U.S. oil shipment program is meeting Europe's emergency and whether a gas price increase is justified.

"Our early hearings indicate," he said, "that the answer to both questions is in the negative—no."

O'Mahoney said the joint group will question Seaton about possible Government steps to check price increases in view of a statement by Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks that the Administration has no plans to ask Congress for anti-inflation wage-price controls.



FOSTER



DENNIS



GATES



DAVIS

## CONTINUATION OF CP VOTED BY CONVENTION

The following resolution was adopted at the Communist Party convention, after being submitted by Oleta O'Connor Yates of San Francisco on behalf of an unanimous subcommittee of the Resolutions Committee:

- "1. That this convention go on record to affirm the continuation of the Communist Party of the USA. Our chief tasks is to strengthen, rebuild and consolidate the Communist Party and overcome its isolation.
- "2. That this convention opposes the transformation of the party

into a political or educational association.

"3. That, although we oppose endless debate on this question, this should not close the door to all constructive exploration and discussion of the subject as may be organized by the incoming national committee.

"4. That we recognize that some ideas have been brought forward in this discussion are revisionist in character. However, it would be wrong to label all proposals for change in name and form as revisionist per se."

## IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS AT CP CONVENTION LISTED

The group of impartial observers at the national convention of the Communist Party includes the following:

- Rev. A. J. Muste, secretary emeritus, Fellowship of Reconciliation.
- Dr. Stringfellow Barr, former president of St. John's College, Maryland.
- Dorothy Day, editor, Catholic Worker.
- Rev. John Paul Jones, Bay

Ridge Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn.

Lyle Tatum, Peace Education Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, Middle Atlantic Region.

Carl Rachlin, Ernest Migdall, Dr. Marie Jahoda, representing the N. Y. Civil Liberties Union.

Roy Finch, national chairman, War Desisters League.

By HERBERT SIGNER

Independence and unity were the twin keynotes struck at the 16th national convention of the Communist Party, USA, over the weekend. Eugene Dennis, party general secretary who delivered the keynote address Saturday, sounded the note of independence when he took issue with French Communist leader Jacques Duclos. He asserted that "our decisions will be our own, made by the collective judgement of this convention, and will be based on OUR Marxist understanding of American reality and the needs of our people and nation."

Duclos, in greetings on Jan. 21 to the convention for the French Communist Party, had warned of "dangerous departures" by American Communists from Marxist-Leninist principles.

The note of unity was struck yesterday, when the convention overwhelmingly approved a resolution continuing the Communist Party and opposing its transformation into a political or educational association. This issue had been one of the most controversial in the months of pre-convention debate among Communists.

There were only 3 delegates opposed and 17 who abstained in a hand vote of the estimated 300 delegates. William Z. Foster, John Gates, Benjamin J. Davis and Dennis were among those who voted for the unity resolution, which did not close the door to future discussion on names and form "as may be organized by the incoming national committee."

The four-day convention is being held at the Chateau Garden on E. Houston St. and Second Avenue. It is being covered by a large battery of newspapers, as well as television and radio. It is the first Communist convention since December, 1950. Jailings under the Smith Act and the overall McCarthyite witchhunt of the intervening years had prevented the convening of scheduled biennial gatherings, according to party spokesmen.

A partial credentials report showed 299 delegates present from 34 states with an estimated representation of 25,000 members. Of those present, 45 delegates have been prosecuted under the Smith Act frameups.

Other convention highlights over the weekend were:

- William Z. Foster addressed the convention following Dennis' Keynote. (See Page 3 for story on both speeches.)

- The convention by overwhelming vote approved the admission as observers of a group, including three persons from the New York Civil Liberties Union, Rev. A. J. Muste, secretary emeritus of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Dorothy Day, editor of The Catholic Worker, and others.

- As one of its first actions, the delegates unanimously approved a telegram to President Eisenhower urging him "to issue in the South a new Eisenhower doctrine for enforcement of the Supreme Court's desegregation decisions and against the racist advocates and practi-

tioners of force and violence."

- The delegates paid tribute to the memory of those Communists who have died in recent years.

- Greetings and messages of greetings and solidarity were sent to Communists now jailed as political prisoners under the Smith Act though control law.

### NAME AND FORM

John Gates, a spokesman for the idea of a political action association, was among those who spoke for the resolution on Name and Form. Gates said he felt it necessary to subordinate his views to the need for unity in the party. He declared he would continue to advocate his views and he hoped it would be in an atmosphere of free political debate.

George Blake Charney, N. Y. state chairman, told the delegates that he supported the resolution for the sake of unity, but added that he rejected any idea that advocacy of a political action association was revisionist.

The resolution was based on similar actions brought into the convention by delegates from eleven states—New York, California, Michigan, Illinois, Washington, Indiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Minnesota, and Colorado. These delegations were for continuing the party without foreclosing discussion on the issue.

Sid Stein, chairman of the resolutions committee, told the convention, "We want unity, but Party unity can only be built and kept if it is based on a policy that unites us with our class and with its natural allies."

Stein said the majority in the Communist National Committee disagreed with the political action association but insisted on the right of its advocates "to speak for their position."

The majority, he added, believes that the value of Marxism-Leninism "is not enhanced but destroyed by our past approach—dogmatic latching on to catch phrases which turn our ardor for socialism into adoration for cliches."

The NC majority further insists, he said, "on the need to break with the uncritical acceptance and dogmatic application of propositions promulgated by Marxists in other lands."

### PRESS COVERAGE

The convention, taking place at the Chateau Gardens at E. Houston St. near Second Avenue, is being covered by the largest battery of newspapermen in the party's history, according to Simon W. Gerson, press spokesman for the party.

The reporters and television crews were not admitted into the convention, however, and are be-

(Continued on Page 7)

# Independence

(Continued from Page 1)

ing briefed by Gerson and a convention press committee. Gerson stressed that the convention itself would have been open to the press, but, as he explained:

"About half of the delegates work in shops and factories, and some come from the South. Many of these have informed us that to have the press in the convention might jeopardize their jobs, their liberty, and, several, from the South, their very lives."

Rev. Muste, said it was "unfortunate" that the press should be barred but expressed the opinion that there are "factors of a special character in this situation that account for hesitation in the matter" by the convention.

Muste referred to anti-Communist "hysteria" in the country. He said, "People have a mistaken idea of democratic processes and how to combat what is evil and fallacious in communism."

The convention opened Saturday at 11:45 a.m. with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. Slogans on the walls called for: "Welfare Not Warfare; Full Equality for the Negro People; For Peaceful Coexistence; Build and Support the Daily Worker."

The convention delegates, in a memorial tribute to Communists who have died in recent years, stood in honor of Robert Minor, Israel Amter, Ray Hansbrough, Ella Reeve Bloor, Anita Whitney, Frank Mucci, William Wiener, Sam Hall and others.

Members of the old National Committee still jailed under the Smith Act frameups are Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Henry Winston, Robert Thompson, Gilbert Green, Gus Hall and Pettis Perry.

Duclos, in a message sent Jan. 21 for the French Communist Central Committee, told the delegates that "the Communist Party can play its role of revolutionary party of the working class acting in the interest of all the people and the nation only if it is built and fights in the framework of the fundamental principles which have been tested in other countries, in the first place in the Soviet Union, thanks to the victory of 1917; only if it determines its internal life and its political struggle in the framework of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, only if it fights for its leading role in the revolutionary struggle for socialism."

"In examining with great attention the opinions expressed by different comrades in your discussion and the official documents like the Draft Resolution for the convention, the Nov. 6 statement of the CPUSA concerning the events in Poland and Hungary and other documents—we believe that we discern dangerous departures from these principles; we have at the same time, however, been happy to see that a more profound study of the real facts has already permitted you to make certain precisions and happy corrections for our common cause and the future of the USA."

## DENNIS' COMMENT

Dennis, taking exception to Duclos' criticism in his keynote speech, commented: "In respect to the misgivings expressed in the greetings signed by Jacques Duclos, let me say that we American Communists firmly believe in our great majority that the main line of our convention resolution is Marxist-Leninist in content and fully in accord with the interests and democratic traditions of our country, with proletarian solidarity, and with the new and ever developing generalized experience of the international working class."

Dennis added, "In any case, our decisions will be our own, made by the collective judgment of this convention, and will be based on OUR Marxist understanding of American reality and the needs of our people and nation."

## FOSTER'S STATEMENT

Foster, on the other hand, declared: "In its letter of greetings, signed by secretary Jacques Duclos, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of France is correct in warning us of revisionist tendencies in our Party. Many in our

Party have been saying this for months past. And its truth is manifested by the many basic amendments made in our main resolution by the various state conventions."

Foster urged that "this convention should welcome the sage and friendly advice of our French comrades and others. Of course, the convention will work out its policies and estimates upon the basis of the American and international situation."

It was an article by Duclos in 1945 condemning the program of the Communist Political Action Association headed by Earl Browder as revisionism of Marxism-Leninism that led to the upheaval which resulted then in the reconstitution of the Communist Party, the expulsion later of Browder and the adoption of the postwar policies of the party in the last ten years.

A new message from the French party, received on the eve of the convention last Friday, omitted specific references to the Draft Resolution and other convention documents but repeated substantially similar opinions.

"We have the firm hope," it declared, "that the Communists of the U. S. will know how to avoid the pitfalls which they may encounter on the road of revolutionary struggle and will not depart from the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism which have been tested in other countries, especially in the Soviet Union and China."

In its greetings, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union noted that the American Communists are "constantly defending the democratic rights of the American people, continuing and developing the best traditions of Lincoln, Jefferson, Debs and Ruthenberg and other outstanding sons of America."

The message continued, "Your party is exposing the conspiracies of aggressive American circles attempting to turn toward new wars. The CPUSA is heroically fighting for the preservation of the party, for strengthening the unity of its ranks on the principles of Marxism-Leninism."

"In its fight for the rights of the working-class, the CPUSA is striving to safeguard brotherly ideological relationships with other Communist and Workers' parties which is sacred for the advanced workers of all countries on principles of proletarian internationalism."

The Soviet party message concluded: "Strengthen and further develop friendship and relationship of the Soviet nation and the American nation, for the mutual benefit of our countries and peace."

John Williamson, writing from Britain, told the delegates: "This will be the first convention since 1925 that I will not be privileged to attend, due to my ruthless deportation by the Eisenhower administration. I assure you, despite this temporary enforced political exile, that I consider myself one of you."

"I look forward to the day when the American people will repeal the McCarran-Walters Act and permit my return to the country where, for 42 years, I was an integral part of its people and the labor-movement."

## MESSAGE FROM ITALY

A message from the Communist Party of Italy, signed by Palmiro Togliatti, its general secretary, noted: "The Italian Communists, engaged in accordance with the decisions of the 8th Congress in the struggle for an Italian road to socialism, follow with lively interest the efforts and the experiences which the brother parties, having in common the same cause, carry out in the particular conditions flowing from their own traditions, from the class relationships and national characteristics of their own country."

Togliatti said, "This struggle of ours is the best contribution which we consider we must make to the great international working-class movement of which we are a part."

The Communist Party of Puerto Rico, whose main leaders are facing a Smith Act thought control trial, sent its "hopes that your Party will emerge united with a political orientation that will permit it to make the action of the work-

ing class and people of the United States effective for the achievement of peace, social well-being, respect for equality and democratic rights and the recognition of the national independence of peoples."

The greeting was signed by Ramon Mirabal, general secretary.

Other greetings read to the convention Saturday came from the Communist and Workers parties of Canada, Bolivia, Czechoslovakia and Japan.

An anti-Communist Hungarian group picketed the convention for one hour Sunday. A statement on this action was made public by Claude Lightfoot and Carl Winter, co-chairmen of the convention presiding committee. It said:

"The attempted demonstration outside our convention hall serves the game of Knowland and McCarthy. It seeks to rekindle and extend the cold war. But the great majority of the American people, no matter what their views on Hungary and the events there, want an end to war provocations."

"We join the American people in seeking friendship among peoples and peaceful coexistence of nations despite differences in their social systems."

# Foster, Dennis

(Continued from Page 5)

the party, by by-passing a vote on the proposed political action association. He urged correction of what he termed an "incorrect 'unity' formulation of Marxism-Leninism, and the statement that the political action association is not liquidationist."

He said the convention should direct its main weight against left-sectarianism but include in its ideological perspective a growing danger of Rightist mistakes. Saying the traditional weakness of the party was Left-sectarianism and doctrinairism, he said: "I myself made my share of these errors of the characteristic sectarian type of the period. It is a misjudgment of my position, however, to allege that I now underestimate them."

He called for more worker members, Negroes, youth and women, saying, "We must become really the party of the working class."

And while he condemned any move to abandon the party or "to consider a 'new mass Party of Socialism' as an early possibility," he said the party did want many changes incorporated in convention documents, listing as examples:

"Marxism-Leninism, freed from all forms of dogmatism and doctrinairism and closely developed and applied to the American situation; more Party democracy, less bureaucracy, and a Party discipline based upon democratic agreement and not upon 'command'; greater participation of the membership in policy-making; more genuine self-criticism by the leadership; a refreshment and reorganization of leading bodies upon a local, district, and national scale; broader united front practices and less sectarian conceptions of the Party's vanguard role; more co-operative relations with other American Left groupings; comradely criticism of brother Communist Parties and the countries of Socialism; the cultivation of more political initiative by the Party, etc. In this spirit the convention should handle the general question of Party change and progress."

Both Foster and Dennis called for refreshing leadership, Dennis suggesting a combination of new and old leadership on all levels. Foster declared the party's "grave crisis of leadership" had "done far more to disorient the Party than the government attack on us."

## Sen. Bridges

### Sees Budget Cut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Sen. Styles Bridges (R-NH) said today he agrees with Senate Republican leader William F. Knowland (Cal.) that Congress will trim more than \$2 billion from President Eisenhower's new budget.