

# Communists Vote Independent Stand; 20 Elected to National Committee

By HERBERT SIGNER

The Communist Party convention yesterday overwhelmingly asserted its independence in matters of theory and in its relations with other Communist parties. With only a dozen

No votes and five abstentions, the 300 delegates determined that the American Communists will interpret, apply and further develop the principles of scientific socialism as it sees fit "in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle and democratic traditions."

Steve Nelson roused applause when, in reply to Jacques Duclos' criticism of "dangerous" departures from Marxism-Leninism in the U.S. party, he declared: "This convention will make its own interpretations."

Nelson reminded the delegates, meeting on the last day of the four-day convention, that Karl Marx had once written to American Socialists in the last century: "Just don't quote me as scripture." He maintained that the U. S. Communists had the responsibility for making its own interpretation of Marxism-Leninism.

## SHARP DEBATE

There was a sharp several hour debate over the issue, one of the most urgent discussed by the party membership in the pre-convention period.

William Weinstone and Al Lannon were among those who spoke

in opposition to the amended section of the Draft Resolution submitted by a unanimous subcommittee.

Lannon told the delegates that the resolution means that "we are throwing the science of Marxism-Leninism out of the window." He contended that a "strong Right opportunist tendency permeates the Draft Resolution."

Those opposed wanted to change the concept of interpretation to "as creatively applied by" American Communists.

The remarks of Nelson and Lannon, as well as the election results, were given to the press by Simon Gerson, chief convention spokesman. This Daily Worker reporter, along with newsmen from all other papers and wire services, has covered the proceedings through the regular briefings in the press room.

The convention asserted that "International workingclass solidarity includes the right to friendly criticism of brother parties or the actions of socialist governments.

"At the same time, it requires  
(Continued on Page 2)

# Daily Worker

Reentered as second class matter Oct. 22, 1947, at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879

Vol. XXXIV, No. 32  
(8 Pages)

New York, Wednesday, February 13, 1957  
Price 10 Cents

# Soviets Ask Big 4 Agree on Peace Pact for Mid East

# C. P. CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

that such criticism shall be within the framework of recognition that the fundamental conflict of all peoples is with the forces of imperialism."

## ELECTION OF LEADERSHIP

Twenty members of a new national committee of 60 were elected in a secret ballot. The remaining 40 will be chosen by state conventions to be held within a month or six weeks. The 20 elected yesterday will meet after the convention adjourns tonight and pick a smaller committee of seven, which will administer the organization until the total of 60 members convene to designate permanent officers and executives.

The 20, chosen out of 46 candidates, are: Miss Charlene Alexander, Los Angeles, 210 1-3, votes; Claude Lightfoot, Chgo., 201-2/3; James E. Jackson, Richmond, Va., 186; Dorothy Healy, Los Angeles, 176 1-3; Benjamin J. Davis, New York, 174-2/3; Eugene Dennis, 174; William Z. Foster, New York, 172; Earl Durham, Chicago, 167; Doxey Wilkerson, New York, 145-1/3; Carl Winter, Detroit, 143-2/3; John Hellman, Butte, Mont., 141-1/3; Fred M. Fine, Chicago, 141; Anna Corea, Denver, 140; Carl Ross, Minneapolis, 136-1/3; Al Richmond, San Francisco, 134-2/3; John Gates, New York, 129-1/3; Sidney Stein, Newark, N. J., 129-1/3; David Davis, Philadelphia, 118-1/3; Charles Loman, New York, 118-1/3, and George Blake Charney, 115-2/3.

The fractions in the votes were made necessary because the California delegation's vote was weighted to slightly less than two votes for each delegate since expense kept the size of its contingent down.

Of the 20 elected, seven are Negroes. One Anna Correa, is a young Mexican-American.

The incoming National Committee was empowered by the convention to add members of the former committee who are now jailed under the Smith Act when they get out.

It will be up to the new committee to decide whether there will be any general officers.

## RESOLUTION

The amended resolution on theory adopted yesterday declares that "Marxism-Leninism" is a scientific analysis of the universal and objective laws of social development. It is the generalization of the experience of the working class of each country and of all lands, and, like all science, is an international product.

"The principles of scientific socialism were first 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.

"The Communist Party bases its theory generally on the cultural heritage of mankind, and particularly on the principles of scientific socialism developed by Marx, Engels and Lenin.

"These principles the Communist Party of the U. S. interprets, and applies, and strives to develop further, in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle and democratic traditions.

"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. In doing

both the Algerian and French peoples."

But, he added, French policy still leads to an aggravation of the Algerian situation which is serious.

He said U.S. monopolies "play on the blunders of the French Government in order to increase their

this the Party must distinguish better between those additions to Marxist theory which are valid for all countries and those which reflect exclusively certain unique features of one or another country."

The resolution also called for a re-examination of some theories which might be outdated today, "for entirely new and unprecedented problems are emerging today which were never treated by Marx, Engels or Lenin."

As an example, the convention noted that "we as well as other Marxist parties have already discarded as obsolete the thesis that war is inevitable under imperialism. We have also rejected as incorrect the concept of inevitable violent proletarian revolution, recognizing the possibility in our country of a peaceful, constitutional transition to socialism."

Further, "We are in full agreement to study further the question of our theoretical and tactical approach to war, theory of the state, dictatorship of the proletariat and other questions that time does not afford an opportunity to resolve at this national convention."

The incoming National Committee was instructed to draft a new party program "to define clearly and unequivocally the viewpoint of American Communists on all fundamental problems of the struggle for socialism in the United States."

## ATTACKS ON PARTY

In an amendment to the Draft Resolution passed late Monday dealing with the party, it was noted that the attacks on it in the past 10 years took place during a period of "high levels of employment and increased total earnings by workers' families."

This gave rise to two trends among workers, it continues. First, there were the militant struggles by workers for wage increases and substantial fringe benefits. "This is a positive feature of the post-war decade," the resolution declared.

Another trend, however, was that the "class consciousness of many labor leaders, who in past years considered themselves adherents of socialism" was eroded.

"In this situation, the capacity of the labor movement to understand the significance of the attack on the Communists was also weakened and its defense of the rights of Communists was relatively limited," the amendment emphasized.

It continued: "The attack unleashed against the Communist Party was designed to destroy it. In this it did not succeed. It did succeed in weakening and isolating the party . . ."

But it was not inevitable that the Communists should become "so severely isolated" and suffer the losses it did.

"Against the background of the objective situation and its consequences, the errors and long-standing weaknesses of our Party had a particularly damaging effect," this amendment concluded.

## HOUSING

A resolution on housing and the Negro people called for:

- Low cost-housing on a non-segregated basis, and full integration of existing projects.
- And end to victimization of Negro home owners and buyers, with credit and insurance made available without Jim Crow strings.
- Action against vandalism, bombings and other racist violence.
- Enforcement of the building and sanitary codes and other services in Negro communities.
- Action to outlaw restrictive covenants.

The convention called for a struggle to enact this program in Congress, State Legislatures and City Councils through the unity of Negro and white in churches, unions and community organizations.