

More Excerpts from Minority Statement of State CP

The New York State Committee of the Communist Party yesterday made public additional excerpts from the minority statement on Section IV of the Draft Resolution.

Sections of the majority and minority statements, as summarized earlier in the week by the Committee, were printed in Wednesday's Daily Worker.

The additional excerpts from the minority statement, as released for publication, follow:

"THE U.S.A. NEEDS A COMMUNIST PARTY"

"It is one thing to correct wrong views and errors in the application of the concept of vanguard. It is quite another thing to reject the concept outright, to reduce its importance or to shelve it for future use.

"The Party is a vanguard because it fights for socialism and educates the masses regarding the need for socialism on the basis of their own struggles and experience. Without a vanguard party, the American workers cannot attain socialist consciousness since this does not come about spontaneously. To give up the Party, to reject or belittle its role as a vanguard means to lessen its capacity to organize and stimulate the workers to become a real independent political force in the country, to fight as class conscious people and eventually to advance to socialism. A vanguard working

class party, important at all times, is especially necessary in the period of imperialism, when issues are complex and the struggles sharp, when great masses of all sections of the population are in motion, when the monopolists employ demagoguery, deception and repression on a large scale, and when the fight for peace, democracy, economic security and socialism assumes greatest importance.

"There is a Communist Party in practically every country of the world where there is a working class. It is unthinkable that in the country of the strongest and most ruthless monopolists, the base of the world reaction, the Communist Party — in existence 37 years with a long and honorable record of service to the American people — should be abandoned. That would be a serious setback for the cause of peace and democracy. It would hurt the fight for socialism throughout the world."

The original summary omitted the section which points out that an association, as argued, would improve the party position legally and in respect to its mass contacts and influence. The section reads:

"An amorphous association would not improve mass work, but only retard it. Its members would lack a strong Party spirit and would tend more to be engulfed by their surroundings

than to influence it with the spirit of the Party and its policies. The great strength of the Party is its unity of theory and practice. But an 'Association' in the main would be a talking body: indecisive, vacillating, and a retreat from mass struggle.

"The way to win better contact with the workers is not to change the form, but to change the way to work. The change of form would not make it easier for Communists in the shops and people's organizations. The Taft-Hartley Law is still in force against Communists. The McCarran Act is directed not only at the Communist Party as such, but at so-called Communist Action organizations, and against any militant bodies which the witchhunters choose to call 'Communist fronts.' Even the National Lawyers Guild is on the Subversive List of the Attorney General, and today in the South the NAACP is declared illegal.

"To restore and extend our legal rights a political party has better constitutional claims than a nondescript non-party organization. The road to greater legality is built by struggle and close contact with the people, by better utilization of existing legal possibilities, by greater inner-democracy that mobilizes the Party members and non-Party groups, and by more resolute struggle for the Bill of Rights,

including constitutional rights for the Party. It cannot be won by concealment, retreat or change of form."

Again while quoting the point that the association is not new, since it was tried in 1944 under Browder's influence, the summary left out the argument that follows that the present demand for an association is being nourished by a false perspective of the road ahead in the United States, by illusions that we have entered a period of diminishing class struggle which therefore justified an organization of the association type. The statement on this point reads:

"The Browderist view of 'progressive Capitalism' and class peace has been proved false. But, as happened in the period following World War I, reformist illusions have been awakened again in sections of our Party by the relatively long period of prosperity and employment, and by improved living standards for sections of the workers and middle class. Un-Marxist ideas are afloat about continued long-range, even permanent, prosperity. Doubts are expressed that an economic crisis in the USA is any longer inevitable.

"These reformist illusions have increased with sharp changes in the world situation signaled by the 20th Congress of the CPSU. This Congress correctly pointed out that we have entered upon a new era, which is now unfold-

ing and in which it is possible to prevent war; a period in which it is possible to achieve long term coexistence and peaceful transition to socialism, and in which possibilities are developing for closing the historic split between Socialists and Communists.

"But they must not be interpreted in reformist ways. The Congress warned that these perspectives can be realized only through the sharpest mass struggle. This warning has been highlighted by the military invasion of Egypt and by the desperate efforts of counter-revolutionary forces aided by U. S. Imperialism to exploit the errors and weaknesses of Socialism and to restore Capitalism in Hungary. Imperialism still exists in a large part of the world, and we must not forget that monopoly capital is still powerful in the USA. As the draft resolution points out: 'the trusts will continue to promote demagoguery, division and force and violence to halt social progress and democratic advance. Titanic economic and political struggles will intervene in our country before the majority of the people take the path to Socialism.'

"Yet, in the discussions and in a number of articles this is forgotten. And once again there is daydreaming of the softening of the class struggle, and of a smooth ride to Socialism."