

# CP Convention Ends on Note of Unity

By HERBERT SIGNER

The 16th convention of the Communist Party ended Tuesday night on a strong note of unity. Four top spokesmen, in closing remarks, called for all-out support to the program adopted by 300 delegates, and for an end to groups and factions.

They agreed that still unresolved differences remain to be debated within this framework of unity.

In turn, Eugene Dennis, Benjamin J. Davis, John Gates and William Foster backed the proposal of the newly-elected 20 members of the national committee that the 11 among them living in New York should serve as a temporary national administrative committee.

Dennis, reporting for the 20 members, said that the 11 would constitute "a team which represents the various points of view within the party but yet will not be paralyzed by differences and will carry out the main line of the convention."

The report was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates with only a scattering of abstentions.

The administrative committee consists of George Blake Charney, Benjamin J. Davis, Eugene Dennis, Earl Durham, Fred Fine, William Z. Foster, John Gates, James E. Jackson, Charles Loman, Sidney Stein and Doxey Wilkerson.

In other final actions, the convention:

- Agreed there will be convened a two-day national conference of the party on civil liberties, including the struggle for amnesty for Smith Act political prisoners, for the repeal of the Walter-McCarran Act, and other issues.

- Adopted a new, amended party constitution.

- Pledged support for a circulation and financial campaign by the Daily Worker and The Worker. Also for state conferences and a national conference this year on the future of the Marxist press in this country.

- Referred other resolutions not acted on at the convention to the incoming national committee.

Davis urged the delegates, "Let's put an end to groups and factions." Supporting the convention program, he observed that remaining differences could be settled in mass work, on the basis of party unity and collective leadership. He seconded Dennis' leadership report as a contribution to unity.

Gates declared, "No matter who lost, the party has won." He called the convention program "an historic one" which will have an "enormous impact" on the country. Declaring he looked to the future with "full confidence," Gates noted the atmosphere now in which differences could be discussed "with mutual respect for each other's ideas."

Foster, last to speak, said: "I too want to support the general work of this convention. This is a victory for the party and not for any group or faction. It will be silly for us to say that we have solved all the differences, but we have resolved the biggest questions."

Concluding, Foster warned: "Nothing is more precious than the unity of the party." He was applauded by the delegates when he declared that while "the bourgeoisie was sure we were going to split it did not happen." Foster noted that he had voted for all convention-approved resolutions.

The new leadership of the Communist Party will include 60 members, 20 of whom were elected at large at the convention. The remaining 40 will be elected at state conventions to be held in the coming weeks.

The first sessions of these state conventions have already been held and were recessed for the national gathering. They will now be reconvened to discuss the national program, elect new state committees and choose members for the national committee. The 40 to be elected across the country were ap-

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# 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. 33  
(8 Pages)

New York, Thursday, February 14, 1957  
Price 10 Cents

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DULLES PLAN ON  
GAZA, AQABA

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# COAST TIED UP, TALKS CONTINUE

By HARRY RAYMOND

Maritime shipping along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Virginia was tied up yesterday by a strike of 45,000 dock workers, members of the independent International Longshoremen's Association.

Coupled with a 13-day strike of tugboat workers and barge crewmen, the dock strike brought steamship traffic in the Port of New York to a near standstill and tied up 150 merchant ships at their piers from Portland, Me., to Hampton Roads, Va.

Representatives of the ILA, and of the New York Shipping Association representing the employers, met separately in offices of the Federal Mediation Service.

When the meetings recessed in the afternoon, Louis Waldman, attorney for the ILA, said the union and employers had agreed to basic proposals for a new contract. The problem now, he said, is to recon- cile the clarifications made by both sides in the 12-point formula offered by Joseph F. Finnegan, chief federal mediator.

The difference remaining, Waldman said, are "honest and reasonable." The typical problem, he pointed out, was the question of vacations. Both sides have agreed to a third week of vacation, but were split on the question of eligibility for the added week.

Waldman said the steamship operators and the ILA have agreed on a master contract for all North Atlantic ports. The contract would determine wages, hours, welfare benefits, pensions, and the length of the contract for dockers in the area.

Finnegan said the talks were "rocking along satisfactorily," al-

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## A Tin Cup Valentine

Twit us, hit us—it's all fine.  
You'll be ours, and we'll be thine.  
But lest we wither on the vine,  
Be our moneyed Valentine.

If you love your paper, dear reader, this is the day to make your affection known. No flowers or candy please. Just romantic, pulse-quicken- ing money — cash, checks or money orders. If you love poetry too, your contribution guarantees against any further attempts at ver- sifying in this column.

Love is a many-splendored thing and money, alas, a swiftly-spended

Raised last 2 days... \$ 318.55  
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thing. We are still in need of \$2,500 to complete our 1956(!) require- ments. Valentine or no, we know

you love us still, dear reader. But oh, how we need a practical (spell- ed c-a-s-h) earnest of your affec- tion.

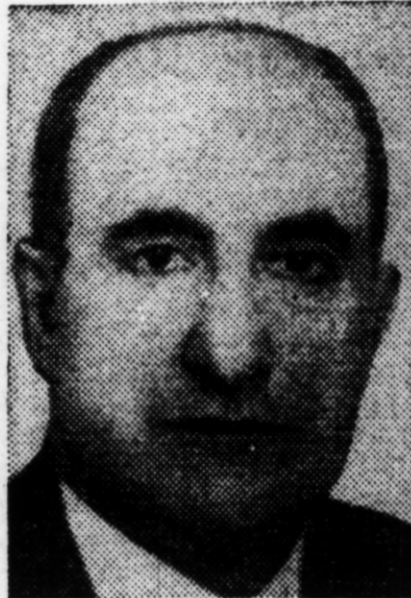
Donations yesterday:

Inwood reader, \$5; Bronx reader, \$15; New York — "The Cat," \$2; B'klyn, E. S., \$6; Chicago, LH, \$1; Winthrop, Mass., \$20; New York, Old Friend, \$20; Spokane, Wash., \$10; Belle area of Queens, \$100; New Haven, Conn., \$10; Garment workers, \$140; Newark, \$25; Group of Teenagers, \$6; Flushing, LI, reader, \$10; Middlesex County, \$5; Williamsburg, \$10; Baltimore, \$1.

## 3 Plead Not Guilty to Spy Charge



MYRA SOBLE



JACK SOBLE



JACOB ALBAM

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

Jack Soble, 53, his wife, Myra, 52, and Jacob Albam, 64, held under bonds of \$100,000 each since their arrest Jan. 25, pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges of conspiracy to collect and transmit defense secrets to the Soviet Union, and failing to register as foreign agents.

After counsel for the three waived the reading of the charges, Federal Judge Gregory F. Noonan asked how they pleaded. Albam separated from the others by the two attorneys, murmured his plea. Mrs. Soble shook her head and said a barely audible "Not guilty."

Soble, tall and erect, standing beside her, said loudly, defiantly: "Not guilty!"

Before Judge Noonan remanded them to jail without bail, and set March 11 for motions and for fixing a trial date, they heard U. S. attorney Williams deliver a summary of the indictment.

Soble, standing at east, regarded Williams almost curiously, as he heard the prosecutor claim Soble met with co-conspirators at

"open known restaurants and various secret rendezvous here, in Paris, and elsewhere."

Giving the appearance of a well-dressed business man with a slightly more distinguished air than common. Soble leaned down and whispered to his wife once. Looking up at him briefly, her face lighted up momentarily.

At another time, when the U. S. attorney was demanding \$100,000 bail, pointing out that he knew Soble didn't have that much money but they did have certain holdings, husband and wife exchanged a smile.

Otherwise Mrs. Soble, visibly thinner than when she was arrested and had first appeared before a U. S. Commissioner, her face drawn and shadowed but handsome, her fading blonde hair worn carelessly, stood with cast-down eyes, a bitter half-smile appearing occasionally as she listened to Williams.

George Wolf, veteran criminal lawyer, retained by relatives as the Sobles' counsel, told the court he felt the bail was excessive.

He added, however, that the charges in the indictment were

vague and complicated, and he wanted time to investigate them before he made any motion on bail. He asked that the question of

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## ATOMIC SHELTER COST PUT AT UP TO \$40 BILLION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The White House has under "active consideration" an atomic shelter program that could cost \$20 billion to \$40 billion, a Budget Bureau official testified today.

Assistant Budget Director Robert E. Merriam said, however, that the White House is not yet ready to recommend such a program to Congress. He mentioned the high cost as one deterring factor.

Merriam testified before a House Government Operations subcommittee on civil defense.

The group, headed by Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Calif), is backing a bill for mass construction of shelters that would be available to virtually all Americans.

The bill also would create a new cabinet-level Department of Civil Defense.

Merriam said the Administration cannot go along with the latter proposal.

Holifield said expert testimony before his subcommittee shows that unless the shelters are built, 75 million to 100 million Americans would die "overnight" in an enemy attack.

He said shelters could give "80 percent protection" to the civilian population.



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# Convention

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portioned among the state organizations according to size of membership.

When the 60-member national committee is finally selected, it will convene and decide on a permanent set-up for the leadership responsible for carrying out the convention programs.

The national administrative committee said it would poll all national committee members across the country on major policy questions that may arise in the next weeks.

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