

N. Y. State Communists Say Parley Moved Toward Unified Position on Key Questions

The New York State Communist Party concluded a three-day convention last week-end by moving towards unified positions on certain major political questions, it was announced yesterday at State Committee headquarters. More than 400 delegates from party organizations throughout the State attended the sessions, held at the Chateau Gardens, Houston Street and Second Avenue.

The convention opened with two reports reflecting varying viewpoints. One was delivered by George Blake Charney, State chairman, the other by Benjamin J. Davis, former City Councilman.

After vigorous discussion two major resolutions were overwhelmingly adopted. The first, proposed jointly by Charney and Davis, revolved around the issue of name and form of the organization. The

second, issued from the convention resolutions committee, was on the draft resolution submitted by the party's national committee for the 16th national convention, Feb. 9-12.

The Charney-Davis resolution was adopted by a card vote, with 5 no votes and 27 abstentions recorded. The resolution read:

"Resolved, that this convention affirms the continuation of the Communist Party of the United States and opposes its replacement by a non-party political action association; and

"Be it further resolved, that this decision does not foreclose further exploration and discussion as organized by the incoming national committee."

The principal resolution of the convention, defining the delegates' position on the national committee's draft resolution, came to the floor in the closing hours of the last

session following two days debate in the resolutions committee.

The resolution was overwhelmingly adopted with 15 no votes and 40 abstentions recorded. The convention resolution endorsed "the main direction" of the national committee's draft and incorporated a series of proposed amendments. It defined the general direction of the draft resolution thus:

"1. The perspective of an anti-monopoly coalition, led by labor, and the election of an anti-monopoly government as the main task in the period ahead.

"2. The full development of the democratic revolution in the South, to win full equality for the Negro people, as the No. 1 democratic task before the American people.

"3. The perspective of and our orientation upon the possibility of a peaceful and constitutional road to socialism, premised on the development of a great political re-

alignment and an anti-monopoly coalition.

"4. The most important mistakes of the last 10-year period were left sectarian mistakes. These mistakes, along with sharp ruling class attacks, are the main reason for the unprecedented degree to which it was possible for Big Business and its political representatives to isolate our party. In struggling against our main errors, the party must continue its vigilance against growing right opportunist errors, conducting a two-front struggle at all times. The sharp turn which our party is now making will tend in some cases to intensify both extremes. There have already been such examples. However, regardless of extremes, neither should blur the main error at a given time—the error is indicated above.

"5. A drastic change in the work and structure of the Party to guarantee
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antee the utmost democratization of our party, the greatest participation of the membership in the formulation and control of policy and an end of the seriously harmful bureaucratic practices of the past."

The resolution also pointed out that "endorsement of the general political line does not, of course, constitute agreement on each individual formulation in the Draft Resolution." It attacked the Eisenhower-Dulles doctrine and urged greater attention to the "imperialist role of American monopoly capital" and "our special responsibilities to the Puerto Rican and Latin American peoples."

It called for strengthening the Draft Resolution by amendments, declaring that the party must be built "upon the solid foundations of the American working class" and that the party "must be based upon the principles of Marxism and Leninism as creatively applied to concrete American conditions."

It also called for strengthening the Draft Resolution to "expose clearly the reactionary role of U.S. imperialism on a world scale" and pointed out that struggles "against specific acts and policies of U.S. imperialism" would "aid the building of a broad anti-monopoly coalition."

The convention statement also urged that the language of the draft resolution make clear that "our allegiance is to the best interests of the working class and people of our country" and that this allegiance "is inseparable from the proud tradition of international solidarity of the American working class with the working class of all countries."

The convention also urged that the draft resolution make clear that "the foundation of our approach to all questions involving s o c i a l i s t

countries is working class internationalism" and the acceptance of the "principle of friendly exchange of criticism."

The convention also adopted a detailed resolution on the fight for Negro rights, which included full support of the fight against school segregation and a full civil rights program. The convention also voted endorsement of the Metcalf-Baker bills in the State Legislature. These bills are aimed at breaking down discrimination in privately-owned housing in New York.

Earlier, the convention voted unanimously to telegraph President Eisenhower urging that he speak out against the growing anti-Negro terror in the South, a course recently suggested to him by a conference of Negro leaders at Atlanta.

The conference also voted greetings to all Smith Act prisoners.

The conference also adopted a special telegram greeting Robert Thompson, Communist leader who was elected State chairman in 1950 but is now in Atlanta Federal prison serving a seven-year term under a combined Smith Act and c o n t e m p t charge. Thompson, a World War II hero, was assaulted in jail and has undergone three serious cranial operations. A plea for executive commutation of his sentence is before President Eisenhower.

The convention concluded by electing 14 delegates-at-large by secret ballot from a list of 46 nominees. Among those elected at large by secret ballot from a list of 46 nominees. Among those elected at large were William Z. Foster, national chairman; Eugene Dennis, general secretary; John Gates, editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker, and Charney. More than 100 delegates, including Davis, had been previously directly elected to the national convention from their home areas by section conventions.