

'Political Affairs' Editorial Reviews C. P. National Convention

At the suggestion of the National Administrative Committee of the Communist Party, we are reprinting the editorial on the party convention which appeared in the April issue of *Political Affairs*. The Administrative Committee suggested the editorial be reprinted in view of "expressions of divergent estimates of the convention" which appeared recently in the columns of the *Daily Worker*. The Committee added that "the viewpoint expressed in this editorial corresponds with the unanimous collective judgment of the National Committee on the convention."

Concluding section follows:

Addressing itself also to the problem of the unification of progressive and socialist-minded currents among the American people, the Convention also adopted a new attitude towards social democracy, noting the differentiation within its ranks, viewing its supporters as potential allies in the labor and anti-monopoly struggle instead of, as in the past, as bearers of a trend which was to be organizationally defeated and liquidated.

Likewise it recognized the possibility of a number of parties of socialism existing side by side and affirmed the perspective and aim of an eventual united Marxist party of socialism.

TO THOSE who kept themselves informed of the progress of the discussion, including the various articles that have been published in *Political Affairs*, and have pondered the sharp differences, the proposals for far more drastic changes, and on the other hand the charges of revisionism, it may come as a surprise that such a high degree of unity was reached at the Convention. Certainly the enemies of the Party had engaged in considerable speculation on the inevitability of a split at the Convention. At the same time, within the Party, many had feared that the Party would be liquidated in one form or another and its basic theoretical foundation — Marxism-Leninism — abandoned, while others despaired of the capacity of the Party to break with its old sectarian policies and practices and chart a new course in line with the needs of the present situation.

Some have drawn the conclusion that there was no real unity achieved but instead a compromise of principles. We do not believe this is borne out by the facts. If argument and debate does not have the purpose of reaching agreement through arriving at a more correct and acceptable view than that held previously by each proponent, then what would be the use of convention and collective discussions altogether? Thus, basing themselves on the main line of the Draft Resolution, the Convention strengthened the Resolution,

rounding out certain propositions which had tended towards one-sidedness. The new draft constitution was also adopted with only minor changes.

On the much-discussed question of name and form, the Convention took the following position:

"This convention goes on record to affirm the continuation of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. Our chief task is to strengthen, rebuild and consolidate the Communist Party and overcome its isolation.

"This convention opposes the transformation of the Party into a political or educational association.

"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 Council.

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

These actions do not represent compromise, but instead principled agreement.

Not the least among the reasons for the high degree of unity was the conscious desire of the delegates to unite the Party and avoid the dangers of a split or of continuing factionalism. But the factors that made the unity possible were: first, the new approach to theory which loosened the rigidity with which the membership had been trained to regard theoretical and political questions; second, the opportunity in the course of the discussion to test ideas against the events actually transpiring in the world; and third, the growing democratization of the Party which had already been under way in the course of the whole discussion without waiting for its practices to be formalized in the new constitution at the convention.

Thus, the lengthy discussion had been the most democratic in the Party's history and the Convention in which it culminated was likewise the most democratic ever held by the Party. It was the democratic character of the convention that made the biggest impression upon the non-Communist observers who, while having reservations and mixed opinions on other aspects, bore witness publicly to its democracy.

The early announcement that the constitution would formalize the right of dissent likewise played a major role in encouraging the membership to examine all questions boldly, free from a dogmatic or doctrinaire approach, testing their opinions in life and recognizing the possibility of honest differences on questions within a united Party. The new Constitution confirmed and guaranteed the advances in inner-Party democracy. This was further demonstrated in the direct representation in the

national leadership given to the State organization.

The Convention, by its very nature and the issues that had to be debated and settled in a short four days, was unable to give adequate attention to a proposed program of action or to the tasks in connection with saving the Marxist press, especially the *Daily Worker* and the *Worker*. Nevertheless the various resolutions and documents adopted by the Convention add up to a general program of struggle. This is true regarding the general line towards an anti-monopoly coalition, the resolution in support of the historic struggle of the Negro people for freedom and equality, and the resolution in support of labor's struggle for improved economic conditions.

That these struggles are growing in dimensions needs no extended demonstration. The struggle in the South is taking on new features as the white supremacists more and more find their legal resources exhausted, and move in the direction of increasing violence. In regard to this question the Convention in numerous ways dramatized its emphasis on the task of winning full citizenship for the Negro people in the South as the Nation's Number One Democratic Task. A new and broad anti-labor offensive is shaping up in state and national legislation and the demonstration of 10,000 workers from all over the state of Indianapolis, shows that labor, even if belatedly, is beginning to mobilize. The recent farmer's strike in the New York milk-shed has again dramatized the chronic depressed situation of the farmers. The events of Academic Freedom

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Red Cross A To Save Lives

By UNITED PRESS

WASHINGTON, June 22 — The Red Cross announced today after five years of research that it has adopted an ancient method of artificial respiration as the best method of reviving infants and small children whose breathing has stopped.

It replaces the back-pressure, arm-life method adopted six years ago.

The 1957 version is known as mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. It was used in Biblical times to revive apparently suffocated persons.

A. W. Cantwell, National Director of Red Cross Safety Services, said refinements for application to children were developed at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, under the direction of Dr. Archer S. Gordon.

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Week show a new stirring among the students.

The decision of the Convention, when mastered by the leadership and membership of the Party, should equip them to give support to these and kindred struggles in a new way, that will ultimately result in the overcoming of the Party's isolation from the basic organizations of labor and the people. The struggle against right-to-work laws, the issues arising from the Senate labor investiga-

tions, the struggle in the South and the fight for civil rights legislation, are all fields where the Party can doubtless play a constructive, vanguard role.

Many questions brought up in the course of the discussion, of course, remained unresolved. Some of the theoretical questions will undoubtedly receive further study in preparation for the Party program that is to be worked out in the coming year. Others will, of course, be the subject of continued examination in theory and

practice by the organizations of the Party. But it seems clear that the Party has taken a decisive step forward in grappling with the new situation and has taken the correct position as an American Marxist working-class party dedicated to socialism and re-establishing its ties with the labor and people's movement. In this as in its entire work, we believe the Convention has made a contribution to the American working class and people.