

# CP Leaders Join at Meeting in Plea to Save Daily Worker

Three national Communist Party leaders, around whom a storm has raged in the debate currently sweeping this and other Communist parties, joined forces Wednesday night to urge unity in the urgent fight to save the Daily and Sunday Worker from liquidation.

William Z. Foster, chairman, Eugene Dennis, general secretary, and John Gates, member of the national committee and editor of the newspaper, pleaded with an audience of more than 100 Communist Party section committee members to bury differences for the time being in a crusade to maintain the Marxist newspaper.

Declaring the party's long fight to establish and maintain a daily newspaper was unique, and that no section of the labor movement or left "can show such a notable achievement," Foster stated: "We

must not lose it!"

Dennis declared himself "against liquidation in any form—whether of the party or the press." He declared the party "needs the paper more than ever, to help strengthen its ties with the masses." While he said he thought "certain changes are required in certain editorial positions of our Marxist press," he resented any "attempt to impugn the integrity of the editors."

Dennis cited as an example to follow that of a group of garment workers he recently addressed where "most of the comrades were very critical of the editorial line of the DW on Hungary" but had more than a month ago begun raising funds and getting subscriptions for the paper.

Gates pointed out how easily the Daily Worker could go under, and how hard—and expensive—it would be to establish a new paper.

He defended the Daily Worker's

policy of allowing, of encouraging, expression of different points of view since the 20th Congress of the Communist party of the Soviet Union.

The newspaper's editorial position on Soviet intervention in Hungary, said Gates, has been identical with that of the majority of the national committee of the party.

"It happens that our movement is deeply divided," he said. "No position the Daily Worker took would satisfy everyone." He cited the London Daily Worker, which took an opposite position and was now printing many letters from readers lambasting it.

Although unity was the keynote of the speakers, however, that wasn't entirely true of the audience. At one point Gates, saying that the paper had solicited articles opposing the editorial position was interrupted when he began to list

writers on the other side. Mentioning Lester Rodney, Joe Clark, Alan Max, he laughed with others when one woman up front said complainingly: "Every day, Alan Max and Joe Clark."

Foster alluded in conversational tones to the "stormy days we're living through." "We should be tolerant of the D.W.," he said, adding that of all the struggles it had gone through in the past none was so grave as its immediate fight to continue publishing.

"Now I've had some spats with Johnnie" he said, smiling, "—to put it lightly," he added, while laughter gently rocked the hall, adding that this never had prevented his supporting the paper.

And with all the troubles previous staffs of the DW had "to keep their heads above water," he said, "never has any group had such difficulties as Comrade Gates

and his associates."

As for the open discussion in Communist ranks, to which this newspaper opened its pages last February, Foster contrasted the situation in the 'twenties when factionalism rent the party and "it was practically impossible to change the position of anyone." Now, he said, it was a "fluid discussion," in which people were changing.

"My opinion," he said, "is that it is a very constructive discussion. I don't know how much you fellows have learned from it," he said, "but I've learned an awful lot."

Other speakers were Lillian Gates, legislative representative of the New York party, who spoke on the fight to amend Rule 22, which allows filibustering in the Senate and threatens civil rights legislation, and Max Gordon, business manager of the Daily Worker.