

CP Calls for Break With Sectarianism

By HERBERT SIGNER

The Communist Party convention voted overwhelmingly yesterday to uphold the section of the Draft Resolution which described sectarianism as the source of most errors in the past period.

The resolution declared that for the party to end its isolation, the main task before American Communists now is "to overcome left sectarianism in all fields."

Of the 300 delegates, three voted against and seven abstained.

Other actions were:

- The convention, in a telegram to President Eisenhower called for amnesty for all jailed Smith Act political prisoners. The President was urged to follow the precedent set by Thomas Jefferson when he freed victims of the Alien and Sedition laws.

- Unanimously voted to have the Communist Party national headquarters move to Chicago, in the industrial heart of the country, within a year. The proposal was moved by the Illinois delegation and seconded by George Blake Charney, N. Y. State chairman.

Earlier in the day, a majority and minority report (1916) had been submitted to the delegates and an intense several hours debate followed. The resolutions subcommittee, seeing an agreement shaping up, went back to work and brought back a united and unanimous resolution.

The resolution states also that the Communist Party must battle simultaneously against sectarianism and opportunism, while the chief emphasis is against the most prevalent danger.

That was specified to be "left sectarianism in character" and was described as the "main reason, together with oppression, for isolation of the party."

Within this framework, there should be a struggle against "existing Right opportunism," the resolution added, but it also stressed

that "the necessary struggle against Right opportunist errors must be carried on in such a way as not to weaken the MAIN task."

The four-day convention, being held at the Chateau Gardens on East Houston St. and Second Ave., is due to end late tonight with the election of a new national committee.

MAJORITY REPORT

William Schneiderman, California state chairman, gave the majority report, which had been ap-
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Mediators Race Dock Deadline

Federal mediators sought yesterday to forestall a resumption of a coastwise longshore strike set for 5 p.m. today, when a Taft-Hartley injunction lapses.

The International Longshoremen's Association announced that mediation efforts had failed and said the strike, interrupted 80 days ago by a Taft-Hartley Law injunction, would resume today.

Mediation service director Joseph F. Finnegan met yesterday with the membership of the New York Shipping Association, the employer bargaining group. He said he was "hopeful" of a settlement.

Meanwhile, representatives of striking Local 333, United Marine Division, National Maritime Union, and the Marine Towing and Transportation Employers Association met again with slim hopes of an early settlement in the tugboat walkout.

C.P. Convention

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proved, 19-6, by a resolutions subcommittee. Esther Cantor of New York reported for the minority.

The Draft Resolution summed up the nature of Communist Party errors of the past 10 years as follows:

"The most important mistakes made in the period under review were left-sectarian in character. These left-sectarian mistakes are the main reason for the unprecedented degree to which it was possible for Big Business and its political representatives to isolate the Party.

"To end its isolation and expand its mass work, the main task of the Party today is to overcome completely the influence of left-sectarian estimates, policies and tactics in all fields of work.

"In the process of carrying out the main task, the Party must continue to maintain its vigilance against right opportunist tendencies, combatting them at all times. This is especially necessary in view of the extremely sharp turn which the Party is now making in many of its basic policies. The necessary struggle against right opportunist errors must be carried on in such a way as not to weaken the main task."

Schneiderman told the convention that "there is a current here which is fighting to oppose and reverse the content of the Draft Resolution."

But, he said, the Party will have to stick to the path outlined in the Resolution "if it is to continue as more than a mere sect."

He urged the delegates to act so that all could see "without doubt that the Party is eliminating deep-seated dogmatism and doctrinairism."

He said there had been some 16 hours of debate in the subcommittee on this sector of the Draft Resolution, reflecting similar thorough-going discussions which went on in local party organizations in the months preceding the convention.

MINORITY REPORT

Miss Cantor, in the minority report, proposed amendments which would equate the struggle on both fronts against sectarianism and opportunism, stated there was an underestimation of the objective conditions which contributed to the loss of party members, and urged the need to more fully define the roots of Right errors which, she said, constituted a growing danger.

ON MARXISM-LENINISM

At this writing, a new debate was shaping up on the issue of the rejection of the Draft Resolution dealing with Marxism-Leninism. Max Weiss, national educational director, was due to make a majority report on relations of the American Communists to other parties on theory.

The resolutions subcommittee split 14-12 on the issue after intensive discussion foreshadowing a similar vigorous floor debate last night.

On theory, the Draft Resolution states:

"The principles of scientific socialism were first put forward by Marx and Engels. They were further developed in the imperialist era by Lenin. They were later enriched by contemporary Marxists in many countries.

"Basing ourselves on these Marxist-Leninist principles as interpreted by the Communist Party of our country, we must learn better how to extract from the rich body of this theory that which is universally valid, combining it with the specific experiences of the American working class in the struggle for socialism in the United States."

The minority position was that the word term "as interpreted by" should be replaced by the term "creatively applied." The minority report on the issue, also one of the most controversial in the months of pre-convention discussion in the party, was not available at this writing.

Weiss, for the majority, argued that "no other party in the inter-

national Communist movement should be assumed to have any authoritarian or ex cathedra right to interpret these (Marxist-Leninist) principles for our Party."

The convention should uphold the use of the term "as interpreted by," Weiss said, as "an explicit declaration of the independent and equal status of our party in relation to all other parties in the world Communist movement on matters of theory."

The majority report appeared to follow the independent line expressed by Dennis in his keynote address when he took issue with Jacques Duclos and asserted that "our decisions will be our own, made by the collective judgment of this convention, and will be based on OUR Marxist understanding of American reality and the needs of our people and nation."

Weiss said that things were different in the past, when "we tacitly assumed that the interpretation of the principles of Marxism-Leninism as made by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was ipso facto valid, and all that we had to do was to creatively apply their interpretations to our conditions."

Dag

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Political committee, Henry R. Labouisse, director-general of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, said Egypt, Syria and Israel interfered with the job of caring for the nearly one million Arab refugees of the 1949 Palestine war.

He warned that the agency would have to halt relief operations on July 1 unless the UN covered an \$18,700,000 budget deficit.

LONDON, Feb. 11. — Britain served notice today it expects the UN to insure that British ships are able to pass safely through the Suez Canal when it is reopened, regardless of Israel's continued occupation of the Gaza strip and the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd told Parliament that Egypt promised free passage before the Anglo-French cease fire was called last November.

Lloyd also voiced general support of Israel's demands for guaranteed passage into the narrow gulf of Aqaba. But he added that "it is unwise (at this time) to talk too much about guarantees or conditions on the one side and sanctions on the other."

Council

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Feb. 25, Feb. 28 and March 1.

The code of ethics, adopted earlier by the Council, stated that no member of the Council should have "any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business, transaction of professional activity, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest."

The Barnes resolution stated further that a councilman should not "disclose confidential information acquired by him in the course of his duties."

Besides Quinn, Bronx Councilman Edward Cunningham and Brooklyn Councilman Jack Kravis have also been charged by Tenney with violating the outside interests section of the City Charter. But no hearings have been set in the case of latter two members.

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