

# Communist Party Urges Unity for 'New Course'

IN A MESSAGE to the members of the Communist Party, its national committee has urged that the discussion during the six weeks till the party's national convention Feb. 9-12 be conducted "in a spirit of free debate, free also of acrimony, based upon the basic unity of purpose that binds us together in the fraternity of our party."

The message was made public here last week after a three-day meeting of the national committee. At the same time two proposed amendments to the convention's draft resolution were adopted and repeated to the press as well as the agenda of the gathering.

The national committee message asserts its conviction that "this convention must strike out on a new course to initiate significant changes in our party to correspond to changes in the world and our nation as well as to overcome longstanding and deepseated weaknesses."

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THE STATEMENT declares that the pre-convention discussion "has shown deep probing" that has produced "unity on many important questions" and has begun to "express a more democratic content of party life and organization."

However, the Communist leaders "are deeply concerned over certain aspects that mar the discussion and may do harm to the unity and effectiveness of the party." The statement especially refers to the tendency "to substitute invective for serious argument."

The committee "reaffirms the main political direction of the (party's) draft resolution" and "the necessity to overcome our longstanding left sectarianism." The Communist leaders state that they do not consider valid any effort to represent the draft resolution "as a departure from our basic scien-

tific theory. No invectives of liquidationism, revisionism, or stand-patism, nor abusive charges with respect to international working-class relations should be permitted to distort the discussion of this document or smother our first efforts to break with the roots of our errors."

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—THE NATIONAL Committee sees "a fundamental basis for unity of the Party and the work of the convention . . . in the general agreement with the main propositions in the first three sections of the resolution." These sections project policy on the present national and international situation, the path toward a people's - timonopoly coalition, and the American road to socialism.

The two proposed amendments to the draft resolution deal with "democratic centralism" and "monolithic unity," and the name and form of the organization.

The first declares: "We want a maximum of internal democracy combined with the necessary unity in action." It proposes "to substantially modify our previous concept of democratic centralism in accord with the provisions of the draft constitution, and discard the term. In its place we propose in

effect majority rule with specific provision for the right of dissent after decision while guaranteeing our ability to act in a united way. . . ."

In regard to "monolithic unity" the amendment proposes dropping the term but retaining the "concept of a common ideology . . . as essential to a Marxist party."

The amendment on name and form takes note of various suggestions on this question, but proposes that the convention "shall not undertake to change the name and form of our party." Instead, it should concentrate on "basic changes" that "have to do with our approach to theory, the content of our policies, and the correction of bureaucratic methods in the inner life of our party, and the development of our mass work and ties."

The amendment "recommends that the convention should instruct the incoming national committee to explore all proposals on form and name, to consult with non-party socialist-minded workers and leaders, and to carry through properly organized discussion within the party with the objective of reviewing this question when we adopt the proposed new party program or at some other appropriate time."

## C. P. LEADERS CITE RULE 22 AS KEY CONGRESS ISSUE

Civil rights, especially the fight to amend Rule 22, and foreign policy questions will be "very much to the fore in Congress, the national committee for the Communist Party said in a statement on the opening