

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XXI - No. 7



NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1957

PRICE 10c

Communist Party Convention Resists New Kremlin Dictate

Token Civil Rights Bill Given Chance To Pass Congress

By John Thayer

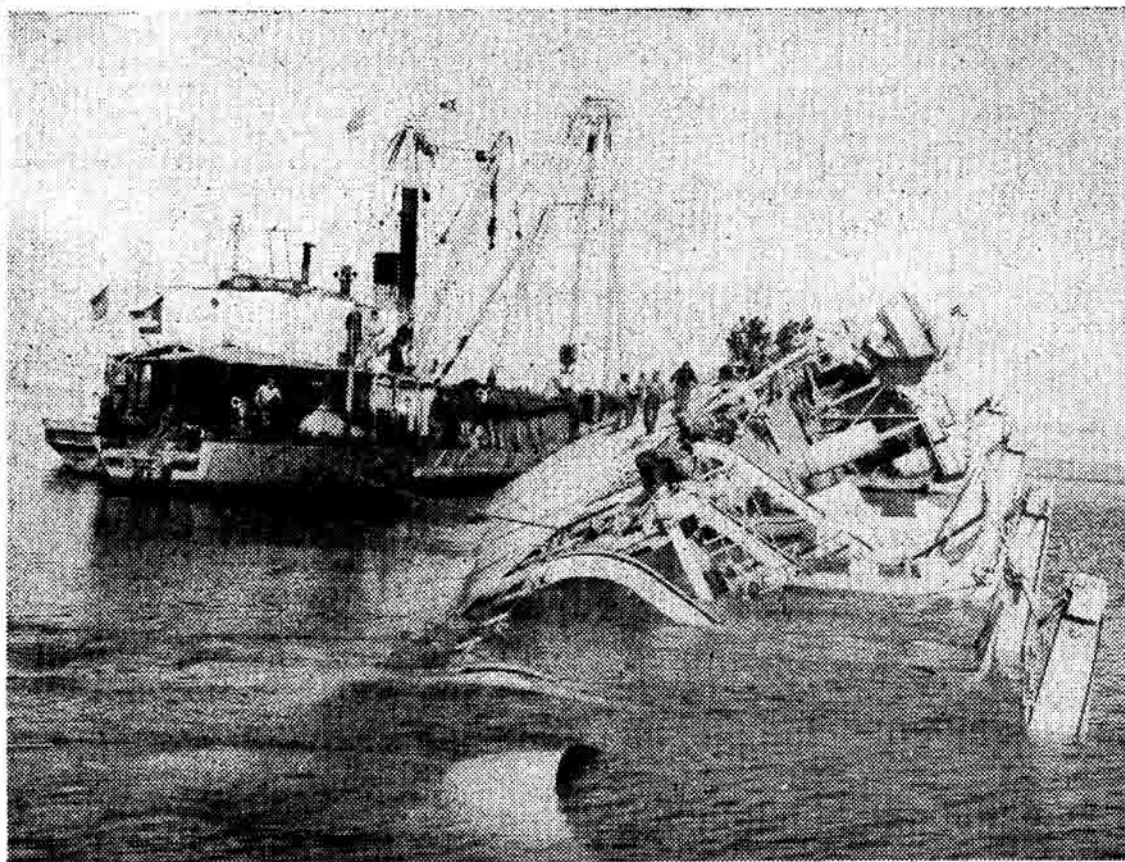
According to Washington dopesters there is a move afoot in Congress to pass a watered-down civil rights law this session. These rumors are noteworthy from the following points of view:

(1) They show that the pressure of the Negro people, particularly in the form of the bus boycott movements in the South and the open dissatisfaction with both capitalist parties, is having its effect on the politicians. (2) The politicians feel it is necessary to try to pass some civil rights law—heretofore those concerned about the Negro and labor vote had considered it sufficient merely to introduce civil rights bills without any intention of really fighting for their passage. (3) The bill that will be pushed will not embody basic civil rights demands (anti-lynching, fair employment practices or school desegregation) but rather token or fringe concessions.

It appears that the Senators behind the move favor a bill incorporating all or some of Eisenhower's recommendations of a year ago. These were a commission to investigate civil rights problems, a civil rights department in the Department of Justice, authority for Attorney General to prosecute those intimidating or coercing a voter in a federal election, authority for the Attorney General to go to court on behalf of one whose civil rights have been violated, direct recourse to federal courts by those whose civil rights have been violated, and authority for the Attorney General to proceed against conspiracies to violate civil rights.

Hearings have been going on in the House of Representatives on two bills (HR 1151 and 2145) of this character. One was introduced by Rep. Celler (D-N.Y.) the other by Rep. Keating (D-N.Y.).

Still Blocking Imperialists



The 5,000-ton Egyptian LST, Akka, loaded with cement, was sunk in the Suez Canal 40 miles south of Port Said at the time of the unsuccessful British-French invasion to recapture control of the Egyptian canal. The Akka is presenting salvage crews now working to clear the canal with a major problem. Attempts to hoist the sunken ship failed last week and salvage ships began the work of towing it to a wider section of the canal where it can be by-passed.

Saud Visit Shows U. S. Gov't Bolstering Arab Feudalists

By Fred Halstead

During his visit in Washington last month, King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia announced that the Eisenhower Doctrine for the Middle East "is a good one which is entitled to consideration and appreciation" by the Arab governments. The purpose of the Eisenhower Doctrine is to allow United States economic and military aid to any country that is

porter of Arab nationalism, backing this plan? And why is the government of the United States, a modern capitalist country, supporting the absolute feudal monarch, Ibn Saud? The answer is that both Saud and U.S. capitalism are fundamentally opposed to the revolutionary struggles of the Arab masses for economic and political progress, for an end to economic

31 N. Y. Times, has not only made "Saudi Arabia's sheiks and princes rich, but it has begun to develop a politically conscious middle class in the towns . . . the Arabian-American Oil Company workers have begun to develop political consciousness."

WORKER UNREST

Saud has been facing increasing unrest from these workers. "Last June" according to the

Reflects Will of Members To Win Right to Chart Party's Political Course

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 — Reflecting the will of Communist Party members to win freedom from the political dictation of the Kremlin, the party's convention which ended here last night rebuffed

Kremlin efforts to decide the convention's outcome. Moscow's intervention came, as it did in 1945, through the medium of a letter from French CP leader Jacques Duclos which branded the stand of the Gates wing of the party leadership as a "dangerous departure" from "Marxism-Leninism."

The Duclos letter followed an attack in the Feb. 3 issue of the Moscow paper, Soviet Russia, which charged the Gates forces with succumbing to the "pressure of bourgeois ideology" and lumped its views with those of John Foster Dulles in typical Stalinist frame-up style.

DENNIS SHIFTS

Apparently sensing a strong reaction by the delegates to the Duclos' Kremlin-inspired intervention, Party Secretary Dennis replied to the letter with the declaration: "Our decisions will be our own, made by the collective judgment of this convention, and based on OUR Marxist understanding of American reality." Dennis, who tried to play a balance-of-power role in the internal conflict, had appeared in the days prior to the convention to be blocking with the Foster wing. His stand against Duclos, however, put him in opposition to that wing.

Foster, who led the struggle to keep the CP in the role of a blind parrot for the Moscow line, asserted that "this convention should welcome the sage and

friendly advice of our French comrades and others."

The actual convention vote expressing independence from Kremlin domination came on the issue of whether the party should interpret and apply "Marxism-Leninism" or merely apply it. The Fosterite viewpoint was that the CP must limit itself to applying the line laid down by the Soviet bureaucracy.

Presenting the majority view of the resolutions committee, Gates-supporter Max Weiss called on the convention to approve a clause stating that the American CP upholds Marxism-Leninism "as interpreted" by the party. The clause, he said, is 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." Such a step, he pointed out constituted a break with 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."

At a convention press conference, party spokesmen reported that the stand of "interpreting" Marxism was adopted by the convention by an approximate two-to-one majority.

The convention elected 20 members to a 60-member na-

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... CP Convention

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tional committee, with the remaining 40 to be added by state conventions during the next six weeks. While there is not sufficient information available for a comprehensive evaluation of the election results, a number of noteworthy features are apparent.

A substantial number of delegates apparently did not consider themselves committed to either the Gates or Foster wings of the leadership and a large measure of healthy suspicion was expressed against both. Thus, the first four places went to district party leaders including some virtually unknown nationally. Top vote getter was little-known Charlene Alexander of Los Angeles, with 210 1/3 votes. (There were a reported 298 delegates at the convention.) Seven of those elected are Negroes, indicating a desire of the convention for maximum Negro representation regardless of factional viewpoint.

Dennis found himself in sixth position with 174 votes. Foster followed with 172. The most prominent leaders of the Gates faction fared even worse than Dennis and Foster in the number of votes received. Gates ran sixteenth with 129 1/3 votes, while New York State Chairman George Blake Charney squeezed through in last place with 115 2/3 votes.

REFORMIST PROGRAM

At the same time the convention rejected by a vote of 140 to 80 a motion by Foster to suspend the rules to elect a twenty-first member who was nosed out by Charney by one third of a vote.

As anticipated, the convention endorsed the reformist political line of the Draft Resolution of the National Committee. Its main planks are "peaceful co-existence," support to the Democratic party and support to the official leadership of the labor,

liberal and Negro movements.

The hotly disputed Gates proposal to convert the party into a "political association" was withdrawn prior to the convention as a "unity" move, and the convention reaffirmed continued existence of the organization as a party. Gates was conceded the right of possible future discussion of the issue in the national committee.

A resolution was adopted embodying a conciliatory stand toward social democracy.

Both Foster and Dennis restated their stand that the Hungarian revolution was an imperialist-inspired "counter-revolution." The Gates wing of the leadership, which had initially criticized the Kremlin role in Hungary, in the Daily Worker, dodged any confrontation of this vital issue at the convention.

The convention also put its seal on the draft resolution's rejection of authentic Marxist-Leninist theory on imperialist war and the nature of the state. The resolution discards "as obsolete the thesis that war is inevitable under imperialism . . . (and) the concept of inevitable violent proletarian revolution."

The first point is actually a rejection of Lenin's insistence on the need for a revolutionary, class-struggle policy as the only effective means to combat imperialist war. The second point is in effect a rejection of his thesis that the capitalist state machinery must be replaced by a democratically-organized workers and farmers government in order to begin the building of a socialist society. The convention resolution envisages instead a "people's anti-monopoly" government, i.e., working through the capitalist state for an indefinite period in the hope of effecting a subsequent "transition" to socialism. All of this was also acceptable to Foster who, in the pre-convention discussion, had campaigned as a champion of "Marxism-Leninism."