

COLUMBIA SESSION CRITICAL OF GATES

Student Meeting Is Orderly as Editor of Daily Worker Takes Part in Panel

John Gates, editor of The Daily Worker, received a polite but critical reception before a student club yesterday at Columbia University. Last week he was barred from appearing on the campuses of the municipal colleges.

He participated in a forum on "The American Communist Party," which was sponsored by the John Dewey Society of Columbia. The other speakers were Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, and Bertram D. Wolfe, author of several anti-Communist books.

The appearance of Gates attracted the largest crowd that has ever attended a John Dewey Society meeting, according to Robert Nozick, the club's treasurer. However, it was not a capacity crowd, as the forum was held in McMillin Theatre on campus, which can accommodate 1,266 persons.

As the audience filed into the auditorium, three staff members of The Daily Worker were outside selling copies of their newspaper. In addition, a young man was selling copies of what he described as a "Socialist student magazine." A police lieutenant, a sergeant and three patrolmen were on duty outside the theatre, but there were no incidents.

Thomas Submits Questions

Mr. Thomas used his opening remarks to read a series of questions he had submitted to Gates in advance of the meeting, for reply at the forum. One question asked if Gates would sign a petition now being circulated by the Workers Defense League and the American Veterans Committee calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Hungary.

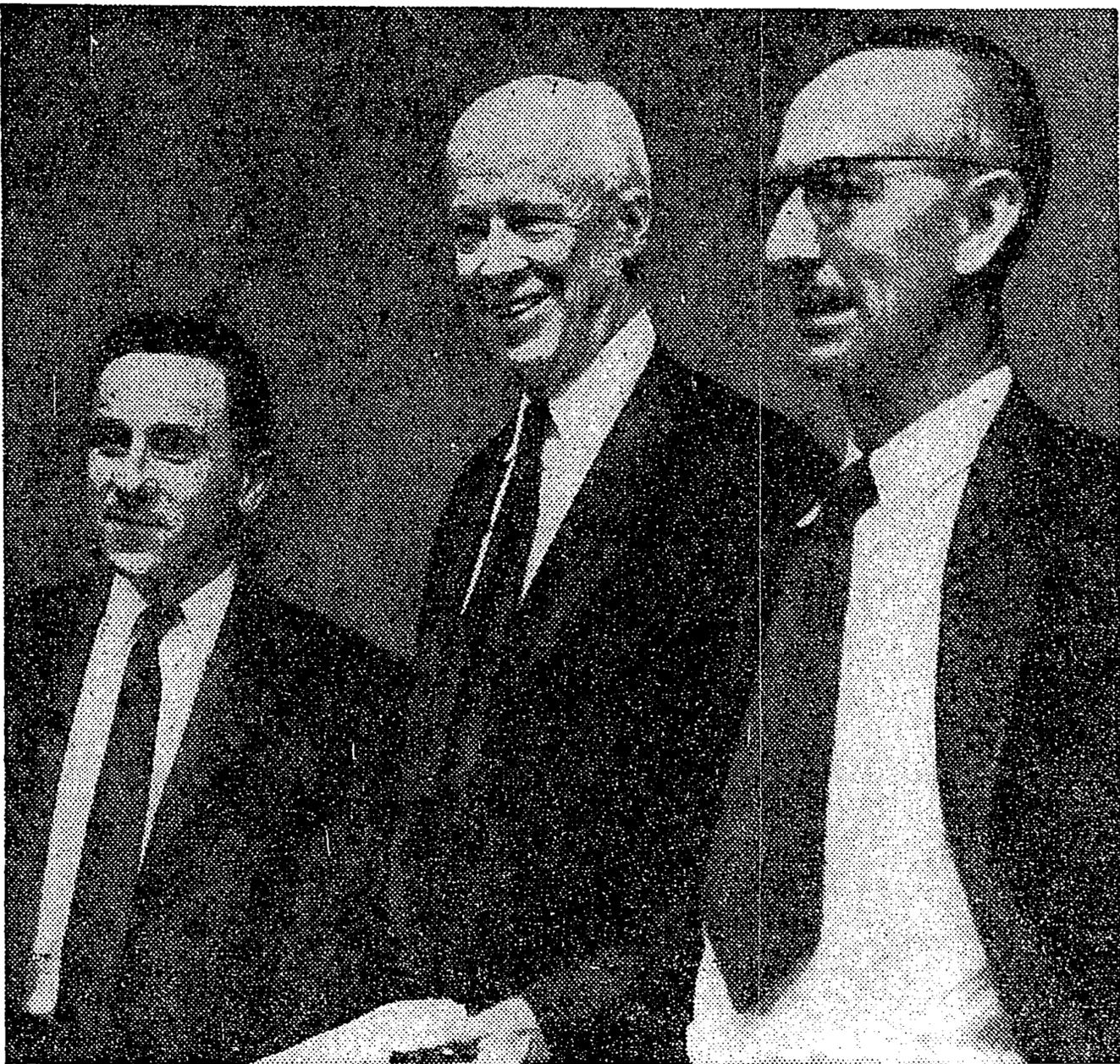
In the rejoinder part of the program, Gates declared that he was "opposed to Russian intervention in Hungary." But he said he would not sign any petition that did not call for the removal of United States troops from Western Europe at the same time the Soviet troops were withdrawn from satellite countries.

Students asked Gates many questions and he received little audible support.

Mr. Wolfe scoffed at the supposed changes in the Communist party.

Gates, who has served time in prison for conspiring to teach and advocate the forcible overthrow of the United States Government, is scheduled to address another student meeting at Columbia this afternoon. This program is being sponsored by the Eugene V. Debs Society and will be held at 3:15 P. M. at Harkness Auditorium.

Mr. Thomas yesterday took issue with an account in The New York Times that reported his appearance at Queens College last week. Mr. Thomas said that he did not tell the students there that they "had been right" in inviting Gates to speak. "What I said," Mr. Thomas stressed, "was that they had a right to invite Mr. Gates and that the college authorities were in error in banning him."



The New York Times

RED EDITOR AT COLUMBIA: John Gates, left, Daily Worker editor; Norman Thomas, center, Socialist leader, and Bertram D. Wolfe, anti-Communist author, participating in yesterday's forum on "The American Communist Party," sponsored by John Dewey Society.