

J.S. REDS VOTE END TO DAILY WORKER

Gates, Editor, Says He Will Fight to Keep Paper Alive Beyond Next Week

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

The national executive committee of the Communist party has voted to discontinue publishing the Daily Worker after next week. The decision was made at a secret meeting last week-end.

But the paper's editor, John Gates, made clear yesterday that he did not regard the vote as binding and would try to continue the paper indefinitely. In a formal statement, he said:

"In the thirty-four-year history of The Daily Worker there have been many predictions of its death, but it has proved to have more lives than the proverbial cat. I am opposed to the suspension of The Daily Worker and intend to fight for its continued existence. In any case, The Daily Worker will cease to exist only when it alone says so."

Last week-end's meeting also refused to endorse the twelve-nation international Communist party declaration issued in Moscow last month. That declaration hailed the Soviet Union as the leader of the Communist world and labeled "revisionism" (modification of Marxism-Leninism) the chief danger Communists must fight. The vote reversed an earlier 4-3 decision by the Communist party's national administrative committee, to endorse the declaration. The administrative group is composed of the seven party secretaries in this city.

Gates Reported Alone

Informed sources said yesterday Mr. Gates was the only one of the twenty national executive committee members to have opposed the Daily Worker's suspension. Those who voted for the motion were reported to have done so either because they opposed Mr. Gates' "right-wing views," which have been voiced in the paper, or because they felt Communist party finances were so depleted that continued support of the paper was impossible.

If The Daily Worker should suspend, the Communist party here would be left only with one newspaper, The Worker, a weekly. This paper is now the week-end edition of The Daily Worker and appears on Fridays.

In October, a sworn statement in The Daily Worker reported that its average paid circulation in the preceding twelve months was 5,574. A year before that, a statement put the circulation at 7,395.

Mr. Gates said in October that The Daily Worker's peak circulation was about 20,000, in 1938, and that The Sunday Worker, which once had a circulation up to 80,000, was then down to about 12,000.

Persons close to The Daily Worker were frankly pessimistic yesterday about Mr. Gates' chances to secure enough funds to continue publishing the paper. They said he would probably appeal to the paper's readers for funds. But they pointed out that receipts from such appeals had fallen sharply, in part because the anti-Gates faction, led by the party's chairman emeritus, William Z. Foster, wished to see the paper suspended and would not contribute to what the Fosterites now regard as Mr. Gates' personal paper rather than a party organ.

The issue of endorsing the Moscow declaration is apparently not fully settled yet. The national executive committee, which refused to endorse it, can be overruled by the full sixty-six-member national committee of the party, which is sched-

uled to meet again next February.

The Gates faction has opposed the Moscow Declaration on the ground that endorsement would in effect reverse the decision of last February's Communist party convention. That convention voted to permit some criticism of the Soviet Union and declared that "left sectarianism," that is, an overly rigid application of traditional Marxist-Leninism views, was the chief danger.

The conflict over this issue, together with Mr. Gates' decision to try to continue publishing The Daily Worker, appears to indicate that for all practical purposes the Communist party is now very badly split.

Evidence of the parlous financial situation of The Daily Worker came several weeks ago when it was reduced from eight to four pages in size, while the number of issues published weekly was reduced from five to four.