

COMMUNIST PURGE FOR UNITY ASKED

Thompson Bids Party Excise
'Cancerous' Internal Rift
—Charges Conspiracy

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

A Communist party leader, Robert Thompson, called yesterday for a new major purge of the party.

In an interview published in *The Worker*, Mr. Thompson said that the factional struggle inside the Communist party had reached "cancerous proportions." He called unity and an end to dissident activities "a life or death matter for our party."

Observers close to the Communist party yesterday supported rumors that the recent registration of members had gathered in fewer than 3,000 persons. *The Worker*, weekly organ of the party, reported that only 26 per cent of the 9,000 new subscriptions sought had actually been obtained in several months.

Mr. Thompson charged that an "anti-party conspiracy" of persons in the party and some who had left recently was the chief obstacle to Communist recovery in this country. He declared that Right and Left factions in and out of the party were warring against it, and that some former leaders "are working to create disaffection in our party, to encourage its members to leave it."

He added that twenty-six California Communists had recently left the party and formed an outside group. A statement issued by these dissident Communists, one source said yesterday, has called for an American Communist movement free of Soviet control.

Mr. Thompson declared that "we are beset with a number of little Napoleons who travel about the country, and in total disregard of our party constitution and of party procedures flout the jurisdiction and authority of party committees."

He identified the rightist faction as consisting of persons "surrounding John Gates [former *Daily Worker* editor], working together with some others still in the party."

Mr. Gates could not be reached for comment, but other sources denied that he was leading any faction, and identified as the leader of the rightists Sidney Stein, former party secretary.

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