

## Communist Conclave

Anyone planning to write a book or an article about how an American political party should not behave would do well to study the action of the American Communist party at its convention over the week-end. The party excluded the press from its deliberations. Its new leader, Gus Hall, justified a major change in line by appealing to the authority of Mao Tse-tung. It has kept secret the identities of forty of the sixty members of its new national committee. And it has made its foreign policy position a duplicate of that of the Soviet Union.

In the face of such behavior our domestic Communists have only themselves to blame if we cannot take seriously their claims of being an American political party. The only uncertainty left after this convention is whether the old phrase of Moscow's minions should not now be replaced by Peiping's puppets.

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