

COMMUNISTS HERE SEE PARTY GAINING

Assert They Are Benefiting From Khrushchev Visit and Soviet Projects

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

The American Communist party is beginning to feel some benefits from Premier Khrushchev's visit here and from recent Soviet space achievements, the party's leadership declares.

An open letter to party members from the group's National Executive Committee, published in last week-end's Worker, says:

"In a number of places we already witness significant new signs of breaking our isolation and becoming involved as a significant factor in the mass movement. And the present objective conditions offer real possibilities for expanding this trend."

The statement appears to be the most optimistic appraisal of Communist prospects in this country issued by this party since the blow inflicted upon it by the publication of Premier Khrushchev's secret 1956 speech exposing Stalin, an event that was followed by mass resignations of members.

The committee's letter asserts:

"The American people are changing their attitude toward socialism. The Sputniks and Luniks, the economic advance and challenge of the Soviet Union, its impressive educational achievements—these and other developments have produced more than mere curiosity in this country.

"Americans are examining and weighing the relative merits of the two systems. And they are coming more and more to realize that the socialist achievements offer no threat to them. Hence the lucid descriptions of the Soviet society presented by Khrushchev fell on interested ears. To these responsibilities our party has already begun to respond."

New Foreign Policy Line

The letter also announces a change in the American Communist party's line on foreign policy and its attitude toward the Eisenhower Administration. The change apparently is aimed at bringing American Communists into line with Premier Khrushchev's laudatory remarks about President Eisenhower.

As a result the National Executive Committee now credits the Eisenhower Administration with recognizing "that the cold war policies have failed, that the drift toward war must be checked and re-evaluated."

The chief advocates of the "cold war" are now identified for Communist party members in this letter as Governor Rockefeller and former Secretary of State Dean Acheson in the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively.

The Communist party leaders now declare that President Eisenhower's initiative in inviting Premier Khrushchev and the two men's talks at Camp David are among events that

"have inspired the people of our country and the whole world with the highest hopes for peace."

The new statement of the party line warns members, however, that the "cold war" has not ended and accuses the United States of continuing "the hard cold war policies" without change against Communist China. Party members also are told that the attitude of political candidates toward the Landrum-Griffin Act, which provides tighter supervision of unions and is opposed by Communists, must be considered in appraising political attitudes in the 1960 elections.

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