

600 Hear Charney on CP Congress

More than 600 jammed Yugoslav Hall to capacity Friday night, and some couldn't get in, to hear George Blake Charney on the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The meeting, overwhelmingly of active Manhattan workers, was the largest of the current series.

The audience stayed throughout the question period into a late hour. More than 100 written questions were sent up.

The meeting, arranged by the Manhattan Freedom of the Press Committee, also netted some 70 new Worker subs.

Charney spoke from notes and emphasized that the views he expressed were "tentative" because full information, including the "second speech" of Khrushchev, was not yet available.

He spoke on basic features of the world situation noted in the congress, some of the theoretical issues raised, and the implications the 20th Congress has for all Marxist parties.

He emphasized the independence of the Communists of this country who, while appreciating the significance of the discussions in Moscow, will develop their own position on the basis of conditions here.

Charney said he saw three trends among American Marxists: strong defense of Stalin, more emphasis on criticism of Stalin, and a "balanced" position, which he said he personally favored, "with qualifications."

He felt certain past policies will come in for critical re-examination as the Communist Party here moves towards its next convention.