

# CP Presents Draft Resolution for 16th National Convention

Eugene Dennis, Communist Party general secretary, made public on Saturday a 23,000 word resolution which the party's national committee has prepared for its 16th national convention in February.

At a press conference he disclosed that all 13 members of the national committee had voted for the resolution, two of them with reservations. The 13 were William Z. Foster, Eugene Dennis, John Gates, Benjamin Davis, Fred Fine, Sid Stein, Matha Stone, William Schneiderman, James Jackson, Claude Lightfoot, Jack Stachel, Carl Winter and Ed Strong. The views of Foster and Davis, who expressed reservations on the resolution, will be made public later in the magazine Political Affairs or in the convention discussion bulletin which the national committee will issue beginning next month.

Dennis said that the Communist Party considers the resolution a "historic document", an "unusual document for our party," and a contribution to the development of the party and to the peace, democracy, and welfare of the American people.

The resolution expresses "deep pride" in the struggles of the Communist Party in the last decade and the "staunchness with which the Communists met the wave of persecution against them." At the same time the resolution is sharply self-critical, declaring that the "party suffered heavy organizational losses, declined in political influence in many areas . . . and that generally the party is confronted with a critical situation."

The resolution outlines a series of changed estimates on the economic and political situation, the danger of war, relations to Marxist parties and socialist countries, and on certain "outmoded theoretical propositions."

Dennis said he would be glad to deal with the discussions that preceded the adoption of the resolution at a subsequent press conference.

In response to a query, he estimated that the present membership of the Communist Party is between 20,000 and 25,000. This is based on estimates by the state

party organizations. No membership lists exist because of the persecution to which the party was subjected, he said.

The national convention, to be held Feb. 11-14, will be preceded by section, county, and state party conventions.

Simon W. Gerson, representing the conventions arrangement committee, estimated that there would be 250 delegates to the party's convention in accordance with the party's constitution. It has not yet been decided, he said whether the convention will be wholly public, private, or a combination of public and private sessions.

The Communist Party's election position will be determined at an election conference next Saturday and Sunday, he said.

He said that committee is working on changes in the party's constitution on the basis of proposals received from the membership. The committee will report its findings to the national convention. "It can safely be said," Gerson declared, "that a new constitution will emerge from the 1957 convention."

He said that 160 Communist Party leaders have been indicted under the Smith Act and related statutes. Of these, 114 were convicted and sentenced to terms in prison totalling 456 years.

Of the 22 members and alternate members of the national committee who were elected at the party's last convention in 1950, three have left the country, and six are imprisoned. Those who left are Claudia Jones, Irving Potash, and John Williamson. Those imprisoned are Robert Thompson, Gus Hall, Gil Green, Henry Winston, Pettis Perry, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

what's on