

## COMMUNISTS' CONVENTION

THE CALLING of the first convention of the Communist Party in more than five years—to be held on the Lincoln-Douglass Birthday weekend—is a matter of national importance.

Although the extent of its influence has varied in different periods, the Communist Party has had an over-all lasting impact on the life of the country—whether in the field of industrial organization of the basic industries, or Negro rights, or unemployment insurance, to mention a few.

We believe the discussion in the pages of this paper over the past three months shows that the proceedings and outcome of the convention will be of interest to circles far beyond the Communist Party membership.

If the Communist Party is finally able to hold a convention after five years, it is only because the good sense of the American people has stopped the curtain of McCarthyism from descending upon the country.

But it is an alarming fact that while a number of Communist leaders are finally out of prison, others are behind bars and still others face prison terms.

The forthcoming convention will be part of the Communist Party's fight for legality. It is ironical that neither the Republican nor Democratic conventions—where many boasts were uttered on our democratic processes—had a word to say against the thought-control laws and anti-Communist prosecutions—although the United Auto Workers did so in the planks submitted by that union.

It is incumbent upon President Eisenhower to act now to end the many proceedings against Communist leaders. It is incumbent upon his political opponent, Adlai Stevenson, to face this issue squarely and speak up in behalf of the Bill of Rights.