

A FORWARD STEP

An Editorial

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS of discussion by its leadership and membership, and all others who cared to participate, the Communist Party has taken a major step forward with the publication of the draft resolution for its convention.

The resolution, we believe, is an important and positive step in the political life of the country. We are confident that it will mark a new impulse to the struggles of the American people for economic security, peace, fullest democratic rights of the Negro people, and for the extinction of the remnants of McCarthyism. It will lead, too, to a turn in the cause of socialism.

There are some, like the New York Times yesterday, who will gloat over the party's admission of its errors in judgment and activity. The party's national committee was fully aware that such attempts would be made to use

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these admissions to perpetuate its isolation.

The alternative was either to make such errors public, to consider them in seclusion, or to disregard them. The party chose neither to disregard them nor to consider them in private.

The party chose another course. It decided to resolve them with a program embodying far-reaching changes. The final program will be formed through the fullest participation of all its members in the discussion of the draft, and in the full glare of all the publicity that admission of its errors would occasion. The committee felt that only a rigorously changed program, and fullest discussion could lead to rectification.

There are other organizations in American public life which would do well to emulate such a course of public discussion and rectification. This requires, it is evident, fullest confidence in the wisdom of democratic discussion and decision.

The Times, in its lead editorial yesterday on the resolution, recognized that the fate of the Communists would not be settled by gloating. It warned that the resolution could open the path to the "resurgence" of Communist activity.

It recoiled especially from the Communists' emphasis on the role of "Big Business," which the resolution calls "The Enemy," and which the party feels should be combatted by a "people's anti-monopoly coalition." Such a program, the Times fears, has great possibilities of success, because it is of the marrow of American political life.

The Times chose, evasively not to dispute the Communists' estimate of trustification in the U. S. Instead, it used the weapon of red-baiting of which the Times itself was the victim only a year ago, when the Eastland committee subcommittee attempted to force it into silence on racism.

The Times ascribes sinister purposes to the affirmation by the resolution of "international workingclass solidarity." Instead of discussing what the resolution actually says on the subject, the Times presents the McCarthyite's view of internationalism. To us it means what Lincoln said: that "the strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations and tongues, and kindreds."

The nation has paid a heavy toll, and is still paying it, from the McCarthyite invasion of our civil liberties. The Times would be well advised to desist from further use of that weapon, no matter how much it dislikes the Communists, or their resolution, or their possible "resurgence."

Democracy will be better served, if the Times, and other channels of public opinion, and civic leaders, deal with the resolution on its merits.