

# CP Heads Vote to End Daily Paper

By Herman Chauka

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 — In a move that may now split the sharply divided Communist Party, its national executive committee voted this past weekend to end publication of the Daily Worker as of next week. Refusing to accept this decision as binding, Daily Worker editor John Gates issued a statement yesterday which said: "In the 34-year history of the Daily Worker there have been many predictions of its death, but it has proved to have more lives than the proverbial cat. I am opposed to the suspension of the Daily Worker and intend to fight for its continued existence. In any case, the Daily Worker will cease to exist when it alone says so."

Gates was the only one on the 20-member committee to vote against discontinuing the paper. The initiative for the action came from William Z. Foster, who heads the wing of the party leadership which has been fighting to silence or drive out all dissenting voices in the organization.

In a document now being circulated in the party ranks, and published in part in the December Political Affairs, Foster brands the Gates group as responsible for the party crisis and pointedly declares, "Its main strength is that it controls and uses the Daily Worker as its special mouthpiece."

Supporters of party secretary Engene Dennis, who has tried to straddle between Gates and Foster are said to have voted for the decision to discontinue the Daily Worker on the grounds that its present extreme financial difficulties make continued publication unfeasible. Whatever supporters Gates may still have in the committee apparently went along with such a view.

The decision applies only to the Daily Worker, which now appears in reduced size four times a week. Unaffected is the weekend Worker of which Gates was recently replaced as editor.

A statement by the party's national administrative committee is expected early next week on the matter.

Within the framework of the Communist Party, Gates has the recourse of appealing the deci-

sion to the national committee, of which the N.E.C. is a sub-committee. Meanwhile, from his public statement and from the special stress now being given in the paper to the need for financial aid, it would appear that he is determined to keep it alive regardless of the final decision arrived at in the party hierarchy.

In a further development, the Dec. 26 New York Times reported that the same meeting of the N.E.C. refused to endorse the declaration issued in Moscow last month by twelve "Communist and Workers Parties of Socialist Countries." That declaration asserted that within the world Communist parties, "the main danger at present is revisionism" which "reject(s) the principles of proletarian internationalism." This was a demand for an end to any efforts in parties abroad to formulate policy independently of the Kremlin or to express any criticism of it.

Rejection of the declaration by the N.E.C. reversed an earlier 4-3 endorsement by the national administrative committee. The reversal appears to have been decided by the vote of the Dennis group.

Opposition by Gates to endorsing the declaration was reported to have been on the ground that such endorsement would constitute repudiation of the "independence" mandate of the past national convention. The N.E.C. decision can still be overturned by the 60-member national committee which is slated to meet in February.

Dec. 27—A statement in the weekend Worker by the CP national administrative committee today charges John Gates with giving information to the press about the decision to suspend the Daily Worker and branded it a violation of "organization principles." The charge was denied by Gates. The N.A.C. also said the national committee would be polled before giving up the Daily Worker.