

# U. S. COMMUNISTS SHIFT PARTY LINE

## Dennis Charts Policy Like Browder's—Also Follows Kremlin Against Stalin

By **RUSSELL PORTER**

Eugene Dennis, general secretary of the Communist party of the U. S. A., heaped new criticism on the late Joseph Stalin yesterday.

He also accepted the new Kremlin line that "peaceful transition to socialism" was possible. But he indicated that there would be no rehabilitation for Earl Browder, his predecessor as top leader of the "open" Communist party in this country. Browder was ousted in 1946 for advocating a course similar to the new party line.

Dennis was freed from Federal prison a year ago after having been convicted with ten other party leaders in a nine-month trial for criminal conspiracy to teach and advocate violent overthrow of the Government. The Browder purge and its instigation by Moscow operating through the world Communist apparatus figured prominently in the trial.

Yesterday, party headquarters here made public a "new look" report by Dennis that in typical Communist fashion had been "unanimously" adopted by the party's national committee. This report thus qualifies as the party's official line in this country.

### 'Left-Sectarian Mistakes'

Without mentioning Stalin by name, Dennis followed the lead set recently by Nikita S. Khrushchev, general secretary of the new Communist leadership in the Soviet Union, at the Twentieth Congress of that organization.

Dennis criticized "shortcomings and mistaken estimates" made by the Communists during the Stalin regime that ended with his death three years ago. According to Dennis, these mistakes were "mainly left-sectarian in character."

Among them, he went on, were "mistaken estimates on the imminence of war" and "an overestimation of the imminence of a deep cyclical economic crisis" in this country. He said "wrong tactical conclusions" had frequently followed mistakes.

In supporting the Khrushchev line on "the peaceful transition to socialism," Dennis rewrote Communist history. He asserted that this idea had been developed in the American Communist movement, but not until 1947.

### A Return to 'Browderism'

The significance of this date is that it was after the Browder purge. "Browderism," as the party until now has called the idea that "the American road to socialism" could be a peaceful one, flourished during World War II and for a short time afterward. But Dennis' predecessor was stripped of his party offices in 1945 and was expelled from the party in 1946.

Dennis indicated that the party's return to Browderism would be accompanied by an attempted revival of the Communist strategy of the Nineteen Thirties. This would seek a united front with Socialists and non-Communist left-wing elements against capitalism.

Asserting that the procedure would be "peaceful" in the sense that it would not constitute "civil war," Dennis conceded that it would mean "big and sharp class struggles."

He called for a new "labor-democratic alignment," with mass Negro support, "capable of influencing the next Administration and Congress." And he indicated the hope such an alignment could "eventually" lead to "a people's democracy" like the Communist satellite governments in Eastern Europe.

William Z. Foster, the party's

national chairman, appeared "briefly" at the four-day meeting addressed by Dennis. The chairman was recently declared too ill to stand trial on the same charge on which Dennis was convicted.