

CUT TO 4 PAGES SET BY DAILY WORKER

Economies Follow Reports of Party Strife—Deficit Near \$250,000 Cited

The Daily Worker, newspaper of the Communist party in the United States, announced yesterday that it would reduce its size from eight to four pages about Oct. 1. It will also eliminate its Friday edition and publish its twelve-page weekend Worker on Friday instead of Saturday.

The retrenchment comes in the wake of disclosures of a bitter ideological split within the Communist party and the reported loss of 45 per cent of the membership in the last year. Membership is now reported as 10,000, compared to 17,000 a year ago. The post-war peak membership, in 1947, was said to have been 74,000.

An announcement yesterday said the paper, long in financial straits, had kept going in recent months only by tapping every available source, by heavy borrowing and by individual sacrifices.

"Frankly," the statement said, "we have reached bottom."

The paper said its financial plight had been aggravated by a constantly declining circulation, by a virtual ban on advertising and by higher publication costs that had offset economies. In addition, it said, its annual spring drive for \$100,000 yielded only \$45,000 this year.

Income of the paper was said to be running \$50,000 behind last year's, with the paper's deficit now approaching \$250,000.

According to the statement, the retrenchments will reduce the paper's budget from \$370,000 to \$240,000 and will permit a cut in the deficit to \$125,000. Even with these changes, the paper said, continued publication will not be possible "unless there is a rapid reader response to our \$100,000 appeal and some increase in circulation."

The paper said it had lost 80 per cent of its circulation because of the "sharp harassment of the Left in the 'cold war' decade." The situation has been aggravated, it added, "by the crisis on the Left."

An apparently serious split within the party was brought into the open last week by John Gates, editor of The Daily Worker, following the resignation of Joseph Clark, foreign editor, from both the paper and the party.

The party division has ranged those in favor of a strong pro-Soviet Union stand against those who favor a less militant pro-Soviet position. The former, according to Mr. Gates, are resisting the policies laid down by the national convention in February, which sought to guarantee to party members the right to dissent.