

Communists Elect 7 Leaders To Run Party Affairs in Nation

The election of seven national secretaries was announced by the Communist party yesterday. They will run the party collectively on a day-to-day basis, instead of having a national chairman and general secretary, as in the past.

The seven are Benjamin J. Davis, in charge of Negro affairs; Eugene Dennis, national affairs; Fred M. Fine, labor affairs; John Gates, public affairs; James E. Jackson Jr., Southern affairs; Hyman Lumer, education and publications, and Sidney Stein, organization.

They represent all three factions into which the dwindling party has been split—those led by William Z. Foster, 76-year-old chairman emeritus, for whom Davis has been chief lieutenant; the followers of Dennis, former general secretary; and of Gates, editor of *The Daily Worker*.

The seven will be a national administrative committee, acting between monthly meetings of a twenty-member national executive committee, which elected them May 22 and 23. Also elected were Earl Durham, secretary of youth affairs, and Carl Ross, secretary of farm affairs. Henry Aron remains administrative secretary-treasurer.

Six of the seven have been

convicted on Smith Act charges of conspiring to teach and advocate forcible overthrow of the Government. Lumer, the seventh, was indicted last January on charges of conspiring to file a false non-Communist oath as a union official.

Meanwhile, party officials reported they had paid \$95.64 in state unemployment insurance taxes on fourteen national employees here for the first three months of 1957, plus \$59.96 for ten state employees.

The State Labor Department held a second closed hearing at 500 Eighth Avenue in an effort to halt the party's participation in the unemployment insurance program. Referee Philip F. Wexner called for briefs by June 20.

The case grew out of a benefit claim by William Albertson, based on work for the national Communist party and a delicatessen. The department rejected his bid last Feb. 7 after an opinion by Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz that the party was a "conspiracy" and ineligible as an employer.

Mr. Albertson also had cited employment by the now-defunct Civil Rights Congress. The state is reported to have contended yesterday that this was also

illegal.

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