

U. S. COMMUNISM AT A NEW LOW

The crisis now besetting the remnants of the Communist party in this country has been revealed by the events of the last few days. The party's membership, including the bulk of such working-class strength it ever had, has deserted it in droves and the best guess its leaders can make of its strength is only 10,000. The party has collapsed completely in many cities, including such important industrial communities as Cincinnati and Youngstown, Ohio. The remaining few thousands of active members are divided by bitter factional strife and their influence on the great issues of our nation and our time is imperceptible.

Joseph Clark's resignation as Daily Worker foreign editor and as a member of the Communist party makes clear that control of the party has essentially been decided in the intraparty struggle. As Mr. Clark's letter of resignation implies, those members of the party who dreamed of a new start that might make possible a Communist party free of Soviet domination and free of Stalinist tactics have been routed. William Z. Foster was entitled to his crowing comment that his articles have opposed only the line of The Daily Worker, implying correctly that his Russia First policy is that of the hard core fanatics who are the bulk of the remaining membership.

The Communist party in this country has deserved the fate history has meted out to it. We may suspect that it would have collapsed even sooner had its people like Mr. Clark seen any easier way of breaking off and receiving in some sense an amnesty from public opinion. Yet even in the face of the difficult personal and material situation which faces people in the position of Mr. Clark, 45 per cent of the Communist party membership has left this past year. Could there be any more vivid proof of the deserved bankruptcy of a group which lived in a world of fantasy for so many years, and which for so long fought against the interests of our nation and of our people?

The New York Times

Published: September 11, 1957
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