

# GATES POINTS UP RED PARTY SPLIT

## Worker Editor Cites 'Crisis' —Calls for Rout of Those Opposing New Policies

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

A deep and bitter split within the American Communist party has been brought into the open by John Gates, editor of The Daily Worker.

In an article scheduled to be published in his paper today, Mr. Gates charges that a major effort is being made to "resist, obstruct and seek to reverse" the decisions of last February's Communist national convention. He declares that only the "rout" of those seeking such a reversal "will solve the crisis in the party."

Mr. Gates' article is nominally a reply to the statement published in The Daily Worker yesterday by Joseph Clark announcing his resignation as a member of the Communist party and as the paper's foreign editor. Much of Mr. Gates' reply, however, makes it evident that he agrees with many of Mr. Clark's ideas.

Noting that the party has lost 45 per cent of its members in the last year, Mr. Gates declares, "We have not yet succeeded in creating the kind of atmosphere in the Communist movement where new ideas can freely be advanced and explored without name-calling, invective and abuse."

"The issue in my opinion is not Clark," he adds later. "It is whether the party will move decisively to fulfill the new policies of the national convention and rout those who are trying to reverse them. Only such a course will solve the crisis in the party."

That Mr. Gates is attacking the faction led by William Z. Foster is clear from the report of the Communist party national committee, held here July 27 and 28, given in a new party publication, Party Life. There Mr. Gates accused Mr. Foster by name of writing articles that "are contrary to the line of the party."

The latter immediately answered by saying his writings were only "against the line of The Daily Worker, which is quite a different line from that of the party in many respects."

### Foster Faction Attacked

Mr. Gates' article denies that all hope of reforming the Communist party has been lost, as Mr. Clark charged. He disagrees that the party has inadequately repudiated the demand of the French Communist leader, Jacques Duclos, that American Communists must always follow Soviet foreign policy, a point made by Mr. Clark. Mr. Gates also assails Mr. Clark's "undifferentiated criticism of the Soviet leadership."

Sid Stein, the party's national organizational secretary, in a report to the national committee published in Party Talk, makes plain that the Communist party is now at an all-time low point of membership and morale.

The party has collapsed completely in many cities, he said, citing as examples Springfield and Lawrence, Mass., and Cincinnati, Akron and Youngstown, Ohio.

The party's membership is now thought to be approximately 10,000, Mr. Stein said, but he indicated that the party's difficulties now were so great that the figure was in part an "educated guess" and was obtained "with the greatest of difficulty."

The deficits of The Daily and Sunday Worker have reached a point where they can "no longer be carried" by the party, Mr. Stein said.

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