

U. S. COMMUNISTS FADING

The Communist party of the United States gave signs of nearing the end of the road last week with the announcement that The Daily Worker will be discontinued after tomorrow and the resignation of Daily Worker Editor John Gates from the party.

Sources close to the party say it is now so disorganized and fragmented that it does not even have a clear idea of how many members it has. Guesses range from 2,000 to 5,000, as against the 80,000 members the party had at its peak in the late Nineteen Thirties.

In every sphere of American life where the Communist party once had influence, sometimes substantial influence, it has today little or no importance. In the union movement the

Communists have been cleaned out of the leadership of virtually all major unions. In the intellectual world of this country, the last prominent Communist of any standing, Howard Fast, left the party a year ago.

Among Negroes, the recent gains in the fight against segregation have been made under the leadership of Negro ministers, like the Rev. Martin Luther King, while the Communists have played no role at all. And now the party is reduced to two regular organs, the weekly newspaper, the Worker, and the monthly Political Affairs, thus putting it journalistically on a par with such small political sects as the Trotskyites and the Socialist-Labor party.

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