# The Plan to Reconstruct the CPUSA

# By C. R. Hubbard

The Crisis in the Communist Party that followed the Khrushchev revelations of Stalin's crimes at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is now in its second year.

Sid Stein, National Organization Secretary of the CP, in his report to the July meeting of the National Committee, stated that the Communist Party has been reduced from 17.000 members in early 1956 to 10,000. "Among these comrades," said Stein, "are hundreds, if not thousands who are as they say. 'sitting on the fence,' passive, inactive. And this passivity and inactivity is not confined to rank and file comrades."

# END IMMOBILIZATION

The National Committee, said Stein, "can and must end the period of uncertainty and immobilization and usher in a period where our direction is clear, our policies more concretely developed, and the method of solving controversial issues definitively established. This is supremely necessary."

In accepting Stein's report "in its totality" the National Comlast February failed to resolve the crisis of the CP despite the "unanimity" of its resolutions. It also declared its intention to end this period of crisis. How does it hope to solve the crisis in the first place. problem?

report to the NC, Stein pointed dicated, the dominant groups in rebirth.' " The American Com- the pounding right now munist Party must fall into line, Any attempt to restore a full-



DENNIS

structing the very foundations of our movement"

## LITERATURE KITS

This, according to Stein, is supposed to include ideological rebuilding, complete with "literature kits" to be issued to party members in the near future. There is no doubt that there will be a stream of new mittee of the Communist Party political material foringoning admitted that the convention from the CP in the next period. However, as the Stein report made clear, there will be no fundamental change in the Stalinist policies of the party, even though they led to the

As debate at the July Na-In the introduction to his tional Committee meeting in- Party.

according to Stein. But it doesn't fledged bureaucratic regime a "dual center," referring to dif- change was taken in the status need to "copy any of these must be a cautious one at this ferences between the Dai'y of Comrade Clark as foreign slogans. . . . We perhaps should point, however. The old ap- Worker and the National Com- editor of the Paper, he would view ourselves as engaged in a paratus that once ran the Com- mittee. They insisted on the ap- resign." period of reconstruction, recon- munist Party was thoroughly plication of "democratic central- The Publications Report said

for full democracy acts as a restraint.

KHRUSHCHEV

This, at any rate, is the calculation of a grouping that appeared at the July meeting around Eugene Dennis and Sid Stein. This group is essentially in agreement with Foster but would moderate the struggle against the "rightists" in the Gates' group.

The real differences in the National Committee were expressed in the fight over the "question of Joseph Clark," former foreign editor of the

The Stein report was accepted

Congress "inaugurated a period to resolve the ideological crisis some of his supporters (such as of self-correction," the Chinese by pressing an organizational Benjamin Davis, Jr., William began their "campaign of rec- attack on critics of the Stalinist Weinstone, Charles Lohman) tification" and "our Italian com- policies. William Z. Foster is the voted "with reservations." They rades speak of 'renewal and zealous advocate of beginning wanted a harder line against Gates and Clark.

The Fosterites argued against

shaken. Rank-and-file demand ism." (the Leninist term they use to cover the Stalinist practice of bureaucratic centralism

FOSTER

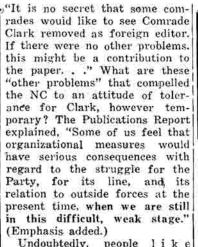
of the Communist Party) in the desire to force Gates and Clark to toe the line or be removed. Foster said the question was "whether or not we should rebuild the Communist Party or head towards the creation of a new organization."

## CONTROL OF WORKER

In the report of the Commit tee on Publications, excerpts of which were published in the August issue of Party Affairs. Daily Worker who has since the National Committee attemptresigned from the staff of that ed to reassert its control over paper and from the Communist the press where the Gates influence is strongest. - But it did not dare extend this control so

out that the CPSU at the 20th the party leadership also seek unanimously. But Foster and far as to remove Clark from his post as foreign editor. This task was postponed for a more propitious moment.

According to Benjamin Davis, Jr., the Daily Worker editor, John Gates, "stated to the National Committee that if any



Undoubtedly, people like John Gates found some hope f democratic tolerance for differences in the Communist Party at the convention last February. But in the National Committee, a body more removed from the rank-and-file of the Party, Gates was decidedly put on the defensive. His primary contribution to the discussion of the National Committee meeting was a plea for more comradely discussion of differences.

"People are leaving the Party, Gates replied to his opponents. "and the only thing that some of us can think about is how to tighten the screws even more. They aren't leaving fast enough. Drive them out! Accelerate the process!

Copies of the Sid Stein report to the July 27-28 National Committee Meeting of the Communist Party as well as of the issue of Party Affairs containing discussion on the report can be obtained from Party Affairs, 23 W. 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

people is precisely that they want to leave our Party," Gates said. "No one of us has proved to be so good a Marxist that wa can just say smugly and complacently, 'We're Marxists. Joe Clark is no Marxist. . . . We will win nobody, and only alienate more people, if our approach is organizational, and not political and ideological.' "

But the Dennis-Stein and the Foster groups for all their plans about "ideological rebuilding." are not capable of resolving the party crisis on an ideological basis. The ways of democracy are not familiar to those who have functioned bureaucratically in the past. "Indoctrination" and suppression of opponents rather than discussion is what they know best. Suffice it to say that no one on the National Committee Gatesites included, has yet proposed to legitimatize the right of members to form factions to fight for a program-

"The problem of thousands of matic point of view.



MIDEAST CRISIS took on WIDE GENERAL STRIKE was more ominous character as U.S. threatened if the 45,000 telephone Marines landed at Saros Bay in and telegraph strikers' demands Thrace under simulated atomic were not met. The government bombing, backed by 96 U.S. Navy had decreed that the unions on ships in the Mediterranean Sea. strike had lost their legal status. Meanwhile, King Hussein has This decree and the ure of troops placed Jordan under martial law. as scabs aroused Argentine la-\* \* \*

at a building housing the pro- unions announced plans to strike United States Daily Star in Bei- in sympathy on Sept. 27. Suprut. Lebannon. Damage was porting the embattled workers

bor. Two hundred strike leaders DYNAMITE WAS THROWN were arrested Sept. 24, while 62 - 000 000