

*John Gates:* We have expressed—all of us, many different points of view at this convention. Some of us have lost out on these points of view, but no matter who lost, the Party has won. (Applause.) This has really been a new kind of convention for our Party. Not only in the manner in which it has been conducted, in the quality of this discussion, but above all, in the pro-

gram and policies that we have adopted. This program, in my opinion, is genuinely a historic one, and one which has had and is having and will have an enormous impact on our country. In fact, I do not recall a convention of our Party which has had such an impact on the country as this one. I consider that the program which we have adopted is an historic one because of the decisions we have adopted, and the approaches we have developed towards a better understanding of our Marxist theory, to help us to do away, once and for all, with the old approach toward our theory that made of it a straitjacket and to really use our theory as the science that it is, which will liberate our minds and free us to do what is necessary to free the American workers from capitalist exploitation and to achieve socialism.

I believe we have made history in the new approach that we have decided upon with respect to international working-class and Communist solidarity, and that the best way that we can promote this international solidarity is on the basis of a program that is in the true interests of the American workers and nation, and one in which our relations toward other Communist parties and countries is one of fraternal criticism and equality.

Lastly, I think this has been an historic convention because, for the first time, since we began to develop a program along these lines, a convention of the Communist Party has officially adopted a program for an American road to socialism, along the lines

of a peaceful, constitutional struggle for socialism in our country.

I think, therefore, because of this kind of a program that we have developed and adopted, we have laid the basis for the unity of our Party. Not a unity in which there does not continue to be differences, but in which we are beginning to develop an atmosphere where we can discuss these differences with tolerance toward each other and mutual respect for each other's ideas.

I look now, as a result of this convention, with full confidence to the future, and I believe that we have adopted a program which will enable us to earn the confidence of the American workers and the nation. And it is because of this that I second and support the motion made here by Comrade Dennis and urge its unanimous adoption by this convention. (Applause.)