Joe Clark's Resignation Points to New Crisis in CP

By H. W. GENSON

As the Communist Party national convention was getting under way in February, a rumor buzzed through the little anteroom that served as a press room; Joe Clark, foreign editor of the Daily Worker, was about to speak. A moment later, the door opened, and Clark entered, limping on one leg, his face white and drawn. He took a chair and sat down. By the end of the convention, September 9, in a letter printed in the Daily Worker, he finally left the party.

His resignation comes as another shattering blow to the dwindling morale and tattered prestige of the CP, which has been blasted by the Munich victory and the Fast and John Steiner. But this time, unlike the others, there is no immediate possibility that the party can survive for seven months. Under the leadership of John Gaites, it has now reached the nethermost depths, with Wall Street, Moscow, and the party's own general secretary, Schmidt, as the new masters of the party leadership.

Clark served on the Daily Worker staff for 12 years; he had been a Communist for 28 years. He joined in his teens to support the "Low Period" when he became a leader of CP student work, organizing mass student demonstrations. He wrote, "I have no doubt that the youth of today will be the political victors of tomorrow." His statement was upheld by his students.

The resignation of Clark is another sign of the continued decay of the party. It must be asked, why has the CP collapsed? The present crisis is not just a consequence of the defeat of the CP in the Soviet Union. It is a symptom of a deeper and more fundamental problem which has been brewing in the party for years. The CP has become a pale shadow of its former self, with little influence or power in the world.

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For Socialist Democracy

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The party's leadership is divided on the question of independence. Some members believe in the need for a strong independent party, while others believe in the necessity of a strong movement within the larger movement. The party's leadership is also divided on the question of the relationship between the party and the trade unions. Some members believe in a strong independent union, while others believe in the need for a strong movement within the larger movement.

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