

Communists Call National Convention Feb. 1957

The national committee of the Communist Party yesterday set the Lincoln-Frederick Douglass birthday weekend of Feb. 9-12 for its first national convention since 1950. The long gap between conventions was due, it was said, to the imprisonment of many Party leaders under the Smith Act, political persecutions and harassment of Party members.

The convention date was set at the conclusion of a four-day enlarged meeting of the national committee at Party headquarters here at 101 W. 16 St.

The convention will be held in this city. It will be preceded by several months of discussion throughout the ranks of the Party and by county and state conventions throughout the country. Lincoln's and Douglass' birthdays were chosen for the convention date, it was said, in order

to signalize the importance of the present-day civil rights fights in which the Communist Party was the pioneer and which the Party continues to champion.

The meeting carried forward the preparation of a draft resolution to be made public in mid-September and to be discussed throughout the Party in the months before the convention. In preparing the draft resolution, the National Committee took into account the discussion of the past three months in Party ranks and in special bulletins and the Daily Worker.

After three days of discussion the National Committee acted favorably on a preliminary draft. Controversial questions in various sections and paragraphs were resolved by majority vote. The resolution was then turned over to a drafting committee to consider the various points of view and amendments advanced in the meeting.

Another meeting of the National Committee early in September will complete the present phase of work on the resolution prior to publication in mid-September. Final acceptance, modification, or rejection will be left to the Party as a whole.

National Committee will make known the trend of the discussion in the National Committee. Individual Party leaders will make public whatever differences they may have with the draft resolution, with any such differences and all unresolved questions to be settled by the Party membership.

It was said that the draft resolution would include sections on the present condition of the country, outlook for the people's fight against the monopolies, the American path to socialism, and proposed changes in the work and structure of the Party in the light of new conditions and of an analysis of the functioning of the organization in recent years.

Publication of the draft resolution will be followed later by publication of proposed changes in the Party's constitution and by special reports on the Party's relations with the labor movement and on its work in the field of Negro rights.

The National Committee also announced that a national conference with representation from State Committees will take place the week-end of Sept. 29-30 to take up remaining tasks in the election campaign, the problems of the Marxist press, and convention preparations.

Racists in Uproar As School Bells Ring

AS THE BELLS ring for the first day of school this fall, the integration-desegregation process is proceeding slowly. On the other hand, the schools question has become the center of increased political and legal activity intended to prevent integration from being accomplished at any time soon, if ever, in a number of the Southern states. The segregationists are on the offensive.

Numerous school lawsuits are before the courts covering every phase from actual desegregation to school bond issues. Surveys indicate that there have been 95 lawsuits arising out of the Supreme Court decision on segregation in schools since May 1954. They include every state except Mississin-



Along with the resolution, the