

Foster and Dennis Discuss Resolution

IN A SPEECH to the national election campaign conference of the Communist Party held last weekend Eugene Dennis, general secretary of the Communist Party, discussed the draft resolution adopted by the Party's national committee.

William Z. Foster, party chairman, explained in an article to be published in the October issue of Political Affairs, his reasons for voting against the resolution. All other National Committee members voted in favor, Benjamin Davis' vote being cast with certain reservations. The text of the Dennis speech will also be published in the October issue of Political Affairs.

Dennis also outlined briefly the two big immediate tasks which the Party sets itself, first in the election campaign, and second in the strengthening the Marxist press. He summed up the Party's election objectives as follows:

"To make a maximum contribution towards clarifying the major issues, to promote labor-Negro-farmer cooperation and alliances, and to help defeat the most reactionary enemies of the labor movement and the Negro people—the most rabid opponents of the national welfare and peace."

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THE NATIONAL Conference acted to meet the difficult situation of the Daily Worker and other working class newspapers. Dennis said on this matter:

"Our discussion on the Marxist press grows out of the pressing situation that has arisen and that threatens the very existence of the

Marxist daily newspapers in our country. Our great concern to preserve these publications does not stem solely from our deep attachment to them.

"For these papers have been, and must become even more, a most powerful instrument for voicing the needs and interests of the working class, the Negro people, and their democratic allies—a mightier tribune for peace, democracy and socialism."

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FOSTER in his article declared that the draft resolution as it now stands means "our Party ceases to be specifically a Marxist-Leninist party." Foster charged that there is a "strong Right tendency in the Party," and he said Daily Worker and Worker editor John Gates is an "outstanding leader" of that tendency.

Foster also criticized Dennis for the latter's estimate of the party in the period of the cold war. He accused Dennis of "a) a serious underestimation of the war danger and generally of the adverse objective conditions faced by the Party during the period in question; b) a big underplay of the essentially correct role and of the various achievements of the Party, and c) a great overestimation of the Party's errors and shortcomings."

The party chairman also said "a new Browderism is developing in the Party." Foster wrote: "Some comrades, while repudiating Browder's crassest forms of bourgeois reformism and his ultimate renegacy from Communism, would resurrect what was 'good' in his system."

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DENNIS SAID the draft resolution "provides a sound political direction for our Party." Referring to recent discussions Dennis said:

"In the light of this re-examination and the important changes proposed, we stress the basic concept of our Party as an American workingclass organization—democratic, unified, militant—based on the principles of scientific socialism, on our scientific application of Marxism-Leninism to the condi-

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Division. Rankin told the Supreme Court they still believed what Mazzei testified to in the Pittsburgh trial of Nelson and four others, on March 26, 1953, but that he had tampered with the truth so often since, they felt compelled to make the motion in the interests of truth.

Frank Donner, attorney for the Pittsburgh defendants, in an answering motion filed last Monday,

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tions of our country."

"While pointing towards the future," Dennis continued, "and our endeavor to help create the conditions for the emergence of a broad, mass party of Socialism in our country based on Marxist principles, the Resolution stresses the historic role of our Party, pride in its past achievements, and confidence in its ability to overcome its weaknesses and past errors."

Dennis denied that the resolution departs from the science of Marxism-Leninism, saying "we have taken into account the profound changes in the world situation which require further development of our theory and the modification

of certain theoretical propositions." Dennis added that American Communists "interpret and apply the theory of Marxism in accord with the conditions of our country and the experiences of the American working class."

HE ALSO said that "some of our past errors arose from a doctrinaire interpretation of certain Marxist-Leninist propositions, from attempts to apply mechanically some of the experiences of Marxists of other lands and from an unscientific approach to some of their views."

The publishers of Political Affairs, located at 832 Broadway, New York, N.Y., said that additional orders of the October issue which carries the full text of the Foster and Dennis articles can be placed directly through their office.