

# Statement by N. Y. State Board of Communist Party

The New York State Board of Communist Party yesterday released a statement branding as false "views circulating in the Party that the leadership in New York stands for and recommends dissolution and liquidation of the Party."

The statement, adopted unanimously by the board and presented at a state committee meeting Oct. 19, said the state board expected to present its collective position and that of its members on each major question in the party's draft resolution now under discussion.

Indicating that some members of the board favored "changes that go beyond the scope of the resolution," it spoke of "a trend of opinion" favoring reorganizing on non-party political organization lines, without attributing the trend to any persons or group. The board declared these expressions of opinion "a legitimate current" in the discussion.

It urged an atmosphere in which views may be discussed by members "with greatest freedom and without fear of being stigmatized in the process." It deplored "invective and name-calling."

The full statement follows:

The publication of the Draft Resolution opens a new stage in the discussion. Comrade Foster's article in opposition to the Resolution appears in the October issue of Political Affairs. Further articles by members of the National Committee, State Committee and others will be published in subsequent issues of Political Affairs in the special discussion bulletin of the National Committee beginning November 1st, and in Party Voice in New York.

The discussion on the Resolution began formally in the September meeting of the State Committee and will continue on a regular basis in the State Committee and in the counties, sections and clubs up to the National Convention.

The State Board views the Draft Resolution as a basis for the pre-convention discussion, not as a document that answers all the questions or presents a final definitive

position on the status of the Party.

What it deems necessary, above all, is to initiate and encourage the widest discussion on the contents of the Resolution. Time and opportunity must be provided to permit our members to thoroughly discuss basic features of the Resolution in its review of the past, its treatment of policy, program and organization and in its perspective for the future.

The State Board up to this time has not adopted an official collective position on the Resolution. It is the opinion of the State Board, however, that it should arrive at such a position as soon as possible and present it to the State Committee and the membership. This it plans to do at the November meeting of the State Committee in a form that will set forth its position and that of its members on each major question on the Resolution, together with recommendations for changes, additions and amendments.

In the interim, the State Board considers it necessary to take sharp issue with views circulating in the Party that the leadership in New York stands for and recommends dissolution and liquidating of the Party.

The views are false.

No member of the State Board advocates such a course. Every member of the State Board is searching for ways to bring a stronger organization into being—as a need of the working class and the nation. No member of the Board proposes to dissolve our Party, scatter its devoted, trained socialist membership and leadership. All of us know that organization is our most important weapon. There are varied opinions how best to achieve this.

There are views by members of the State Board in favor of changes that go beyond the scope of the Resolution. There is a trend of opinion that favors transforming the Party into a non-party political association with change of name, etc.

The State Board considers these views a legitimate current in the discussion and a contribution to the col-

lective exploration in this pre-convention period for a program, outlook and form of organization which will be most effective in the present period.

They render a disservice to the discussion who resort to invective and name-calling.

A sharp and probing discussion of varying and conflicting views is healthy and desirable. What is neither healthy or desirable is a tendency to resort to or rely on rumor, to impromptu characterizations of leading bodies and individuals because their views may differ. These tendencies must be rejected if the discussion is to run its proper course.

The validity of all proposals for change, either contained in the Resolution or not, will be determined by the membership. Our obligation in the State Board is to encourage all members to discuss their views with greatest freedom and without fear of being stigmatized in the process.

All of us must help shape the way out of our crisis. This can best be accomplished by creating an atmosphere for the discussion of all issues on their merits in the mutual exchange of opinions.

It is our obligation, furthermore, to bend every effort in the State Committee, counties, sections and clubs to promote work of the party organization in this period; to stimulate greatest interest and participation in the mass struggles of labor, the Negro people and other movements, in the elections and after; to support the present campaigns for the press, Jefferson School and other such activities; to improve dues payments, the functioning of our clubs, section committees, etc. The debate on the Resolution cannot go forward without major effort to maintain and strengthen the organization.

This is a difficult period indeed, but we are confident that we have the resources within our organization to chart a path ahead that in time will enable us to overcome our isolation from the working class and the masses of American people and play a vital and honorable role in the affairs of our country.