

# Foster Defeated in Move To Oust Gates from DW

By Harry Ring

Supporters of the Foster faction in the resident National Committee of the Communist Party made an unsuccessful effort, March 14, to oust John Gates as editor of the Daily Worker, according to a report by Ted Poston in the March 15 New York Post. The move to oust Gates came as he was involved in fighting a threatened contempt citation by a House Un-American Activities subcommittee and while he was the central figure in a free speech fight in the city's colleges. The ouster motion was defeated seven to three, with one abstention.

According to Poston, who apparently received a first-hand account of the meeting, the attack on the Gates group was opened by Eugene Dennis on the basis of the publication in the magazine, Mainstream, of novelist Howard Fast's statement breaking with the Communist Party. Dennis also criticized the editors' reply as soft. The Fast statement included a strong denunciation of both Stalin and the present Khrushchev regime.

The Dennis attack was then followed up by Foster's principal lieutenant, Ben Davis, who made the motion to remove Gates as editor. Davis, along with Brooklyn CP leader Charles Loman reportedly attacked Gates for the handling of Fast and for the Daily Worker's handling of the Hungarian events.

Poston further reports that Loman charged that the Gates leadership in the New York State Committee of the Party favored "anti-Soviet" policies and that this charge so enraged State Chairman George Blake

Charney that he stalked out of the meeting.

An attempt to postpone the issue of removing Gates was made by James Jackson, generally considered a supporter of Foster. He is understood to have expressed the view that it would be a mistake to act on the ouster motion while Gates was involved in the present free speech fight and under attack by the House committee. His motion to table the issue was defeated. Gates then demanded an immediate vote on the motion to remove him. Jackson and Dennis then voted with Gates and the motion was defeated with Foster, Davis and Loman voting for removal.

A follow-up story in the N. Y. Times reports that both Simon Gerson, newly appointed executive editor of the Daily Worker, and Alan Max, managing editor, both declined to comment on the issue. The Times reports further that the Gates group is being charged by Davis and others with being guilty of "Jewish bourgeois nationalism" because the DW has failed to take a clear stand in support of Egypt in the present Mideast crisis.

The renewed attack on Gates is based on the charge by the Foster group that the Gates tendency is revising Marxist theory. Both Foster and Gates supported the main political line of the draft resolution adopted by the recent party convention.