

Foster Group Wins CP Control But Faces Further Opposition

By HARRY RING

The now-united Foster-Dennis faction in the Communist Party leadership has captured control of the party apparatus; but it still faces sizeable opposition in the ranks and leadership. This fact emerges from additional information now available about the proceedings of the February meeting of the party's national committee.

At that meeting a number of key Fosterite objectives were approved by a vote of 32 to 21, with three abstentions. The vote came on a resolution by Eugene Dennis who dropped all pretense of "independence" and joined with the old-line Stalinists.

Counterposed to Dennis' resolution was one by Claude Lightfoot of Chicago and Carl Winter of Detroit. Reportedly, it is an amended version of a strongly anti-Foster resolution previously presented by the Northern California District Committee.

"MAIN DANGER"

The Dennis resolution finds the "main danger" within the organization to be "revisionism" — a Fosterite label for those who favor ideological independence from the Kremlin, democratization of the party and participation in the socialist regroupment process. It also calls for restoring tight political rule within the party by a small political secretariat.

The difficulty confronting the Dennis-Foster combination is that it is still unable to establish its control over the opposition. An account of the national committee meeting in the

March 9 Worker, drafted by a subcommittee of the national executive committee, reports that it was possible to elect only nine members to a new 15-member NEC because "some comrades in the minority took the position of refusing to participate in such a leadership." **The only prominent anti-Fosterite to accept was Micky Lima, chairman of the Northern California district.**

The continued existence of widespread opposition has compelled the Fosterites to proceed with a measure of caution. For example, the Worker account of the Dennis resolution asserts that it is a continuation of the convention policy of combating the "twin evils of left-sectarianism and right opportunism," and appropriate quotations are presented to substantiate the claim.

OMISSION

However the key point in this section of the resolution is omitted from the Worker report. The omitted clause reads: "Without a decisive repudiation and defeat of the revisionist trend . . . we cannot carry on a systematic and effective struggle against left-sectarianism and dogmatism . . ." The "revisionists" — who now must be defeated first — represent a near or actual majority of the party.

On regroupment, the resolution declares: "The Party is not . . . a holding operation . . . **The Party is here to stay.** Without it . . . the victory of socialism is inconceivable." This formulation was first put forward by Dennis at an NEC meeting last December. Sid Stein then characterized it as

follows: "What do you mean by a holding operation? The difference here is between those of us who believe that the Party as it is, is for evermore the organization that will lead the American working class to Socialism, and those of us who believe that this party can rebuild itself . . . in bringing about a Socialist regroupment in the United States . . ."

The present Fosterite advance has brought a further crippling of the New York party apparatus. At a meeting of the state committee which endorsed the Dennis resolution, George Blake Charney resigned as executive secretary, George Watt as organization secretary, and William Lawrence as treasurer. They declared the line adopted made it impossible for them to function as party officers.

The Dennis resolution pictures the party as "still in the critical state into which it has been plunged for some time . . . For the most part, the Party has been unsuccessful in breaking out of its isolation. Basic ideological differences continue to exist within the Party, and the Party leadership is itself sharply divided, and therefore largely immobilized . . ."

LONDON'S WATER

Eight million Londoners may be drinking poison with every sip of water and every cup of tea — but all details of the tests concerning radioactive water, and its results, are secret. These ominous facts have been discovered by Labor Councillors in Hornsey and were reported in the Feb. 22 Newsletter.