

COMMUNISTS HERE FIX ELECTION LINE

'Independent Course Which Influences Democratic Party' Decreed for This Year

The Communist party published a political line for the 1956 election campaign yesterday, calling for "an independent course which influences the direction of the Democratic party."

A report on election policy prepared by Claude Lightfoot, Illinois

chairman, was said to have been adopted by the national committee, with one abstention, at a four-day meeting ended May 1. Lightfoot is free in \$30,000 bail, pending a United States Supreme Court hearing on his appeal from a Smith Act conviction for belonging to the Communist party with knowledge of an aim at violent overthrow of the Government.

The Lightfoot report said a principal objective was "the defeat of the G. O. P. Cadillac Cabinet." Achieving this, the report added, would require "defeat of the Dixiecrats in the Democratic party, a new approach to the struggle for peace and a bold, fighting approach by the

liberal wing of the Democratic party."

"Obviously, as the Democrats move over to a more clear and forthright stand on issues," the report said, "this, in turn, will force the Republicans to discuss issues in a different way. The result will be that issues will stand out more clearly and will have to be reckoned with, no matter who wins."

"Crisis" issues were described as anti-Negro discrimination, farm and labor problems and replacement of the cold war by a policy of "competitive co-existence."

The Soviet disclosure of "mistakes of such magnitude" in the era of Josef Stalin "came as a deep shock to us," according to

a report by Max Weiss, educational director of the party, who is free on \$15,000 bail pending a Chicago trial on a Smith Act indictment.

The "cult of Stalin's infallibility," he said, "had led us to a position where we had well-nigh ruled out the possibility" of either Stalin or the Soviet Communist party making mistakes.

Simon W. Gerson, head of a party committee on civil liberties, said the Communists had made "grave mistakes" in "blanket endorsement of acts in Socialist countries which are now seen to be gross violations of Socialist legality and are now being corrected even if, tragically enough in certain cases, too late."

The New York Times

Published: May 14, 1956

Copyright © The New York Times