

FOSTER REBUKED BY U. S. RED VOTE

Defeated for Executive Body in Original Balloting—But Faction Gains in State

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

William Z. Foster suffered a stinging humiliation at last week's Communist party national committee meeting, it became known yesterday.

In the voting to elect a seventeen-member executive committee out of the sixty-six-member national committee Mr. Foster was said to have failed of election. He obtained a place on the executive committee only when a motion was adopted to expand the group from seventeen to twenty members.

The same meeting voted down by decisive margins motions to remove John Gates as editor of *The Daily Worker* and Joseph Clark as foreign editor. Gates is the leader of the right-wing "revisionist" faction of the party which opposes the completely pro-Moscow group led by Mr. Foster and former City Councilman Benjamin Davis Jr.

Mr. Foster's election as the party's chairman emeritus was a purely honorific action that gives the 76-year-old leader no direct organizational authority, informants said.

However in the New York State Communist party, the largest group of Communists in the country, the Foster faction made sweeping gains in county meetings held in the last week. As a result the outlook now is that the New York State Committee will be dominated by the Foster faction.

In Brooklyn some delegates opposing the Foster faction were said to have walked out, while in Queens the so-called right-wingers refused to attend the convention.

Informants attributed the Foster faction's winning of control of the state party set-up to the loss in recent months of "thousands" of party members. They said much of the Communist leadership in this city had resigned.

A year ago, informed sources said, Communist party membership in this country was about 16,000. Of these, 10,000 were in New York State. If Communist party members were to be re-registered now, it was estimated, well under 5,000 persons would renew their party status in this state.

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