

# STATE REDS URGE CHANGE IN PARTY

## Report of Leaders Suggests That a 'Political Action Association' Be Set Up

New York State leaders of the Communist party have proposed changing the party's name and turning it into a "non-party political action association."

The move recalled the tactics by which Earl Browder, then general secretary, had the organization transformed into the Communist Political Association in May, 1944. A revolt against him reconstituted it as a party in July, 1945.

The new proposal—which a spokesman vigorously denied was a return to Browderism—came as a majority report of the state committee. It was approved last Dec. 8 by 25 votes to 6, and sent to party clubs yesterday along with a sharply dissenting minority report.

However, George Blake Charney, state chairman, and William Norman, state executive secretary, said in a covering letter that they accepted a subsequent national committee recommendation to defer any action on changes in the party's name and form until after a national convention next month. The convention is to act on a new basic resolution and constitution.

Mr. Charney and Mr. Norman both said they favored the state majority report. The identities of others on each side were not disclosed, but the majority statement paralleled published views of such other members of the state committee as John Gates, editor of *The Daily Worker*, and his wife Lillian, state legislative secretary.

William Z. Foster, national chairman, and Eugene Dennis, national general secretary, have been among opponents of any move to liquidate the party in any way, but they are not members of the state committee.

### Half of Party Here

The state party represents perhaps half the national membership, which Mr. Dennis last September indicated had fallen to between 20,000 and 25,000 persons. The party has not run candidates under its own name in any election since 1949, and has recently been striving to upset an order by the Subversive Activities Control Board to register as a Soviet "puppet."

The majority report proposed a political action association as "a form of transition" toward a "united party of socialism." For this it urged explorations "with other Socialist trends."

The report held it "premature and wrong to attempt to merge the small and relatively ineffective Socialist groupings in the country," but hoped for a new base in the labor movement.

The majority argued that its proposal would "halt the trend to liquidation" and "appeal to hundreds and thousands of former members who dropped, not because of fear, but because of our many wrong policies and undemocratic practices in the past."

The majority report made no reference to the short-lived Browder precedent, although this was scored in the minority report. In party quarters it was asserted that the majority members still considered that Mr. Browder had been mistaken.

The minority report contended that the majority proposal would "increase the moods of pessimism, demoralization and disorganization" in the party. It argued that "the Socialist-Communist component" of a new coalition must register its presence and strength by the size of its vote and the number of public officials it could elect.