

U. S. REDS LINE UP WITH SOVIET AGAIN

Leadership Changes Called Rebuff to Rightist Faction Once Led by Gates

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

The American Communist party is again firmly under the control of those who believe subservience to the Soviet Union is the first obligation of every Communist, observers close to the party reported yesterday.

They gave this as the significance of the leadership changes and other actions taken by the Communist party's national committee Feb. 15. The rightist forces suffered two major de-

feats at the committee's meeting. Their representatives were removed from the committee while last November's Moscow Declaration hailing the Soviet Union as the leader of the Socialist world was endorsed as laying down basic doctrine. American Communists must study and learn.

The rightist faction formerly led by John Gates, who resigned from the party and as Daily Worker editor earlier this year, tried to change the tide against it in an appeal submitted to the national committee. That appeal proved fruitless.

The rightists' appeal accused the left-wing forces headed by William Z. Foster and Benjamin Davis of seeking to purge the key rightists from the party in New York State, where the leftists control the party machinery. It also accused the leftists of being prepared to kill off the party's remaining English-language organ, the

week-end Worker, if the staff was not cleared of rightists.

Signers of the appeal included such key Communist leaders and members of the Worker staff as George B. Charney, Albert Blumberg, Simon W. Gerson, Abner Berry, Jesus Colon, Max Gordon, Morris Schappes, George Watt and William Lawrence.

The appeal describes the situation in the New York State Communist party, which in the past has included half the party members in the country, in these terms:

"Our registration may not exceed one-third of the enrolled membership of 1955-56. These losses have been suffered in industry as well. Dues payments are at the lowest point in history. Morale is extremely poor."

The rightists accuse the Foster-Davis faction, now allied with the group led by Eugene Dennis, of conducting a "witch hunt" aimed at removing all

Communists who support the decisions of the Communist party convention and who refused to accept the Moscow Declaration of last November as settling all questions for the Communist party in the United States. They also charge that the leftists have been circulating articles in Soviet publications to win support for their views, since Soviet statements on the American Communist party have made clear Moscow support for the Foster faction.

One of the few concessions the rightists managed to win at the national committee meeting was a resolution denying the accuracy of an attack on two American Communists by the Soviet Communist organ Kommunist. That magazine had called the foreign editor of the Worker, A. B. Magil, and William Schneiderman, a leader, "revisionists" in an article published late last year.

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