

On the Resignation of John Gates*

By National Committee, CPUSA

THE RESIGNATION of John Gates from the Communist Party and his subsequent actions are a matter of serious concern to the Party. While these developments should not be permitted to become an issue which diverts us from our mass work or from the fight against sectarianism and dogmatism in our ranks, it would be a grave error not to examine into their meaning and draw the necessary lessons from them.

True to form, Gates' resignation became the occasion for a flurry of television and newspaper publicity, including a series of articles in the *New York Post*. The newspapers seized upon the resignation as a fresh opportunity to attack the Party, its peace policy, and the socialist lands. To these purposes, of which Gates obviously was not unaware, he lent himself in his interviews and his articles.

Here he reveals himself not only for what he is now, but for what he has been for some time. He now admits that he concealed his real views from the Party—that when he spoke

at the 16th National Convention of his confidence in the future of the Party and its program, he did not speak his true feelings. And soon thereafter, he says, he lost *all* faith in the Party's future. But, he continues, though he decided he could not achieve his real aims inside the Party, he kept this to himself and remained in the Party under false pretenses, working toward a future outside its ranks. In the face of his disbelief, he nevertheless continued as a national secretary of the Party and as editor-in-chief of the *Daily Worker*.

Further, having resigned, Gates makes fully clear the liberal-reformist nature of his political views, which he had previously partially concealed.

He rejects the fact of American imperialism as the source of the war danger today. Nowhere in his articles does the word "imperialism" even appear.

He stands for a policy of reformism and with it a repudiation of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, which he reduces to nothing more than a "theory of change."

He is against a Marxist-Leninist

* This Resolution, submitted by Jack Stachel, was approved by the February meeting of the National Committee, in favor: 36; opposed: 12; abstaining: 7.

party such as the Communist Party, for whose existence he sees no need. At best, he is for some sort of loose, catch-all party, consisting of an agglomeration of the most diverse ideological currents, including non-Marxist and anti-Marxist views.

He stands—he declares—for an “American” socialism, and for a radical movement whose “Americanism cannot be questioned.” What he advocates in fact, however, is abandonment of the concept of proletarian internationalism and disassociation from the world Communist and working-class movements and their ideas.

Gates, who now speaks so freely of democracy, himself repeatedly defied the will of the majority in the Party. On a number of occasions, he refused to subordinate himself to majority will and threatened to resign in order to get his way even though in the minority, taking advantage of the sincere concern of others for the unity and welfare of the Party.

The immediate occasion for his resignation was just such a refusal to accept the decision of the majority. But this was only the immediate excuse. The basic reason for his leaving was the incompatibility of his political and theoretical views with membership in the Party. For his is an ideology which leads to denial of the need for a Marxist-Leninist working-class party. Therefore, when he found he could not transform the

Party into his own image, he left it, as others have similarly done before him.

And having left, he now predicts its imminent death. More, he is prepared to help hasten its demise, and lends himself to the purposes of its avowed enemies.

The ideas of Gates, which he now so freely expresses in the pages of the bourgeois press, are by no means peculiar to him. They are but the most extreme expression of a revisionist ideology which has gained currency among some within the Party's ranks. They are a product of the pressure of bourgeois ideology within the working-class and its organizations, including the Party, and an expression of accommodation to this ideology.

There is no place in the Party for a Gates or his ideology. The departure of such individuals will not injure but will strengthen the Party.

The answer to his resignation must be a determination to reveal and defeat all alien ideology in our ranks, whether of a revisionist or a Left-sectarian character.

Really to repudiate Gates and to demonstrate one's devotion and love for the Party requires both the rejection of opportunist-revisionist influence *and* the most relentless battle against sectarianism and dogmatism.

In the present situation, our Party faces both tremendous responsibilities and vast opportunities. In the strug-

gles for jobs and security, for peace, for labor's rights, for full equality for the Negro people and for the defense of democratic liberties, our Party is vitally needed.

The National Committee therefore calls upon the Party membership to respond to the desertion of Gates by redoubling its efforts to

give effect to the injunction of the Main Political Resolution of the 16th Convention, which declares: "This convention goes on record to affirm the continuation of the Communist Party of the United States. Our task is to strengthen, rebuild and consolidate the Communist Party and overcome its isolation."

STILL THE "FREE WORLD"

Kasserine, Tunisia: The war in Algeria has spilled over into Tunisia again, this time in the form of human wreckage. Seventeen hundred refugees have crossed the border in the last week in the wake of what is called a "ratissage" by French troops in the region of Bekkaria.

A *ratissage* (literally, a raking) is an operation against a community suspected of complicity in the Algerian revolt. To be effective a *ratissage* must be brutal. This one was, according to the accounts of the refugees.

—*The New York Times*, March 5, 1958.