By H. W. BENSON

A meeting of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party on December 8 was an event of exceptional significance in the party's internal discussions.

In its 16th National Convention meets in early February to act on a Draft Resolution prepared by the National Committee; in acting upon opposing resolutions, a discussion of the Convention, the State Com- mittee divided sharply into two opposing wings. For this and other reasons, its actions mark a stage in the development of the debate.

For the information of our readers we present extracts from the adopted resolution.

Party Battle Crystallizes Around Resolutions

CP-Factions Present Rival Statements for Party Vote

Black Year Looms Ahead --

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A quick check reveals that 2 million engineering workers, a quarter of a million shipyard workers, 340,000 railroadmen, nearly as many in the mining and construction trades, about 23,000 London busses are impatiently waiting to be covered by the new wage agreements the unions have haggled with their employers. When the employers, and when they refuse, the unemployed and semiemployed will be preparing new wage claims to meet the increased cost of living which has occurred since the original claims were made.

Not even the most optimistic trade-unionists imagine that the employers will agree to these wage increases. They are well aware that the government is actively engaged in making the cost of living go up, the cost of paying wages in an endeavor to avoid an inflationary situation. The unions have an explosive potential, far more explosive than the dupes of the Soviet-inspired rebellion of its middle-class supporters.

And there is always the possibility that more enlightened sections of the middle class may join in with the organized workers in attacking the government on economic issues. Signs of this are already apparent among the clerks--usually portrayed as typical middle-class British--who have recently embraced upon a big drive and built up a trade union of 100,000 members, and are now demanding that the government give them a chance to answer the refusal of the banks to meet the cost of living through proper negotiating machinery.

Exhausted by its struggle to put over an unpopular policy to the people and weakened by internal factional fights, the CP is ripe for a very difficult year in 1957. The Labor Party, on the other hand, has five years of possible growth, or it has the courage and determination to seize the opportunities that will arise.

The real big issue for the Labor Party in 1957 will be whether to go all out to fight the Tories on a firm socialist pro- gram, or whether to continue running such a program--or whether merely to oppose the Tories as an alternative. This problem is better fitted than the Tories to manage the affairs of a capitalist economy.