

COMMUNIST DISSENSION

The full extent of the demoralization and dissension in the Communist party in this country has been brought to the surface by William Z. Foster, the party's chairman. Mr. Foster has written an article in which he attempts to justify his own leadership this past decade. In the process he reveals that many Communists are confused, disillusioned and disenchanted to the extent, Mr. Foster charges, that his opponents in the leadership are even ready to discard the concept of Marxism-Leninism.

It is an empirical law of Communist party history that whenever the party line is changed there must be a sacrificial victim among the leadership. Mr. Foster, who ousted Earl Browder somewhat more than a decade ago, would seem to be the

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chosen victim now, in view of his status as a minority of one in the national committee. Alternatively, however, Mr. Foster may hope that he will be the victor and oust his opponents. Possibly he is encouraged in such hopes by recent news of the warm words of praise Pravda has cast in his direction.

But neither Mr. Foster's accusations against "Rightists" and "liquidationism," nor his opponents' effort to create the facade that the Communist party has now become a truly American party are likely to save the day. Both Mr. Foster and his opponents have together been guilty of slavish subservience to the Soviet Union and of childish misunderstanding of American realities. Intellectually the Communist party is bankrupt. Its record makes it impossible that it should ever again command the support of any significant group of Americans or play a serious role in the dynamic development of our society.