

COMMUNISTS OCCUPY ASTOR'S OLD OFFICE

The Communist party of the United States is carrying on its campaign against the capitalistic system from the former offices of Vincent Astor.

Workmen are decorating in a decidedly unproletarian manner the new national and state headquarters in a lovely old three-story Georgian house at 23 West Twenty-sixth Street.

The house was used by Mr. Astor for his business offices until 1942. In that year, according to John P. Brady, real estate manager for Mr. Astor, the house was sold to Frederick Vanderbilt Field for \$30,000.

Mr. Field used it for his own offices until last month, when it was sold for \$60,000 to a group called the 23 West Twenty-sixth Street Corporation. It, in turn, leased the property to a retired accountant, Charles Dirba of 540 East Eighty-fourth Street.

Mr. Dirba would not disclose yesterday whether he had subleased the house to the Communist party. "That's a business secret," he said.

At the party's headquarters, however, an official was not so secretive. He confirmed that the house had been subleased from Mr. Dirba.

When asked what the yearly rent would be, the official, Henry Aron, the party's administrative secretary, would say only "It's considerably less than we paid for our old offices at 101 West Sixteenth Street."

Party officials have been in the new quarters since March 15.

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