

NEW LEFTIST UNIT SET UP; REDS IN IT

National 'Forum' Combines All Elements of 'Socialist and Labor Traditions'

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

The formation of a new organization to promote cooperation between Communist and non-Communist leftists in this country was announced yesterday. Those involved appear to represent the broadest spectrum of such political thought since the Progressive party of 1948.

Called the American Forum—For Socialist Education, the new organization aims to advance "study and serious untramméled political discussion among all elements that think of themselves as related to historic Socialist and labor traditions, values and objectives * * * however deep and bitter their differences may have been."

The group includes several persons who have been particularly bitter political enemies in the past—Dr. Doxie Wilkerson and Dr. Albert Blumberg of the Communist party and Farrell Dobbs, last year's Presidential candidate of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers party.

United Action Possible

The chairman of the new organization, the Rev. A. J. Muste, a prominent pacifist, said in his official announcement that the new group "neither promotes nor seeks to inhibit" united front actions by different groups represented in the American Forum. It is known, however, that representatives of the Communist party and the Trotskyites have informally discussed running joint candidates in elections this year or later.

The new organization is essentially a response to the drastic change in leftist thinking caused by developments in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the last year and a half. Nikita S. Khrushchev's secret speech last year revealing Stalin's crimes caused not only confusion and defection among the Communists here, but it also opened the way for them and other radical groups to reconsider old positions and survey new possibilities.

The American Forum's sponsors hope to generate a national discussion among Socialist-minded groups that could conceivably result in a new united front, breaking down past barriers to common action. Those members of the Communist party who have urged dissolution of the party are reported among those having the greatest hope for the new organization.

Some elements in the American left have indicated suspicion of the new organization as one that may, if successful, give Communists a new respectability. Others have argued that it will provide a chance for "decent elements" in the Communist party to break with their pro-Soviet past and become truly American radicals.

Religionists Included

The new organization's national committee is also broad enough to include non-Marxists, notably Dorothy Day, editor of The Catholic Worker, and others whose approach to socialism has been from a religious point of view rather than from that of atheistic, materialistic Marxism.

Vice chairmen of the new organization are Kermit Eby, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago; Milton Mayer, author and lecturer; John T. McManus, editor of The National Guardian, leftist weekly; Bayard Rustin, an editor of the Socialist-oriented Liberation magazine, and Dr. Mulford Sibley of the political science faculty of the University of Minnesota. The secretary of the American Forum is Sidney Lens, Chicago union leader.

Other members of the national committee are:

James Aronson of The National Guardian; Joseph Atkins, Baltimore; Michael Baker, Minneapolis; Prof. Paul Baran of Stanford University; Stringfellow Barr, former president of St. John's College; Carl Braden, former newspaper man of Louisville, Ky.; Prof. Derk Bodde of the University of Pennsylvania, and Harold Charbneau of Chicago.

Bert Cochran, editor of The American Socialist; Jack Cypin, Nassau County; Dave Dellinger, Glen Gardner, N. J.; W. E. B. DuBois, leftist Negro scholar; J. Stuart Innerst, Pasadena, Calif.; Russell Johnson, Boston; Oliver Loud, Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Conrad Lynn, Rockland County.

C. H. Mayer, Andes, N. Y.; Clifford McAvoy, former American Labor party candidate here; Benjamin McLaurin, New York; David McReynolds, New York; William Neumann, Baltimore; Russell Nixon, New York; Harvey O'Connor, Winnetka, Ill., and Sam Pollock, Cleveland.

Joseph Starobin, former foreign editor of The Daily Worker and former Communist party member; Fritjof Thygeson, Berkeley, Calif.; Charles Walker, Cheyney, Pa.; Prof. William A. Williams, Eugene, Ore.; Prof. H. H. Wilson, Princeton, N. J.; Milton Zaslow, New York, and Waldo Frank, Truro, Mass.