

U. S. Reds Vote End To Control by Soviet

By PETER KIHSS

American Communists formally asserted independence from Soviet domination yesterday. Their party, however, appeared still bitterly divided as twenty leaders from all three major factions were elected to a new national committee.

By votes officially reported as "about 2 to 1," the final sessions of a four-day closed-door national convention adopted resolutions establishing its position.

One of them said that "serious mistakes and shortcomings in the relations between the U. S. S. R." and such states as Poland and Hungary "have been revealed, and some have been corrected." Communist parties, it said, have "the right and responsibility to make friendly criticism of brother

Continued on Page 20. Column 1

The New York Times

Published: February 13, 1957

Copyright © The New York Times

U. S. REDS PUT END TO RULE BY SOVIET

Continued From Page 1

parties or the actions of Socialist Governments."

Another resolution said the United States party "interprets and applies" Marxist-Leninist principles in accordance with American conditions. In submitting this resolution, Max Weiss, national educational director, said that in the past the party had "tacitly assumed" that Soviet Communist party principles were "ipso facto valid."

Foster Still on Committee

The twenty members at large of the new national committee—to be supplemented by forty chosen by district or states in the next six weeks—included William Z. Foster, national chairman since 1932; Eugene Dennis, general secretary, and John Gates, editor of The Daily Worker.

Mr. Foster lost on Saturday what in effect was a demand that leaders like Mr. Gates be purged. Mr. Foster—whose views had Soviet and French Communist support—had also objected to leaving Marxism-Leninism to be "interpreted" by the United States party.

Mr. Foster had argued that such a concept would strip Marxism-Leninism of its scientific and "international character" and reduce it to "innumerable national interpretations," which he called "an impossible position for a Communist party."

One indication of his convention position was when he lost by 140 votes to 80 a motion to suspend the rules to elect a twenty-first member at large who had been defeated by only one-third of a vote.

40 Local Seats to Be Filled

However, Mr. Foster, who will be 76 years old Feb. 25, was still far from being written off. While the Gates-Dennis forces may have a majority among the twenty national committeemen at large, control remains to be decided in the voting for forty local choices.

Mr. Dennis and Mr. Gates were both officially reported to have

voted for the so-called "independence" positions.

They also have had their differences. Under Mr. Gates, The Daily Worker has continued to criticize the way the Soviet Union used force to repress workers and students in Hungary. But on Saturday Mr. Dennis said Hungary had undergone an "imperialist-backed attempt at counter-revolution."

The twenty members at large of the new national committee were reported elected by secret ballot over twenty-six others as follows, the fractions representing some California votes:

Miss Charlene Alexander of Los Angeles, 210 1/3.

Claude Lightfoot of Chicago, 201 2/3.

James E. Jackson of Richmond, Va., 186.

Mrs. Dorothy Healey of Los Angeles, 176 1/3.

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. of New York, 174 2/3.

Eugene Dennis of New York, 174.

William Z. Foster of New York, 172.

Earl Durham of Chicago, 167.

Doxey Wilkerson of New York, 145 1/3.

Carl Winter of Detroit, 143 2/3.

John Hellman of Butte, Mont., 141 1/3.

Fred M. Fine of Chicago, 141.

Miss Anna Correa of Denver, Colo., 140.

Carl Ross of Minneapolis, 136 1/3.

Al Richmond of San Francisco, 134 2/3.

John Gates of New York, 129 1/3.

Sidney Stein of New Jersey, 129 1/3.

David Davis of Philadelphia, 118 1/3.

Charles Loman of Brooklyn, 118 1/3.

George Blake Charney of New York, 115 2/3.

With yesterday's election, Mr. Foster, Mr. Dennis and other officers lost their former party titles.

The newly elected group announced unanimous agreement on the eleven members now residing in the New York area as a "national administrative committee" to serve until state and district members were elected.

The eleven are Mr. Charney, Benjamin Davis, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Durham, Mr. Gates, Mr. Fine, Mr. Foster, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Looman, Mr. Stein and Mr. Wilkerson.

Mr. Dennis introduced this proposal as a show of unity. Seconding it, Mr. Davis called for "an end to factionalism."

Mr. Gates said that the convention "for the first time adopted a program of the American road to socialism." Mr. Foster com-



The New York Times

ON COMMITTEE: William Z. Foster, former national chairman of the American Communist Party. He is included among 20 members on new national committee.

mented that "we have resolved the biggest differences."

The convention adjourned at 10:20 P. M.

6 Ex-Committeemen in Jail

The previous national committee, elected in December, 1950, had thirteen full members and nine alternates. Of these, six — Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Gil Green, Gus Hall, Pettis Perry, Robert Thompson and Henry Winston—are in prison under Smith Act sentences for conspiracy to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the Government.

Fifteen of the newly elected members, Mr. Gerson said, have also undergone Smith Act charges of various kind; Mr. Ross was convicted for harboring a fugitive. The four who have not been charged under the act are Miss Alexander, Mr. Durham, Mr. Loman and Mr. Wilkerson.

Seven new members are Negroes—Miss Alexander, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Jackson, Benja-

min Davis, Mr. Durham, Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Loman. Seeking to strengthen Negro appeal, the convention yesterday amended a new constitution to say the party champions "workers, farmers and Negro people and all others who labor by hand and brain."

Mr. Gerson insisted last night that the party still had 20,000 to 25,000 members, denying a report it had sagged to 8,500.

In yesterday's debates, an unidentified New York delegate was said to have denounced the resolution criticizing other Communist parties as raising a "danger of making the Soviet Union the main target of attack." It was telling other parties "not to butt into our business—isolationism of the worst kind," he said.

Other delegates, however, were reported to have complained that the party had failed to criticize Soviet foreign policy, no matter what the Soviet did.

The Hungarian Communist party's central committee, a Reuters' dispatch from Vienna said, sent a message wishing the United States Communists victory in "strengthening ideological and organizational unity."

Meanwhile, the Communist party here met only rejections yesterday, after its national convention had proposed "cooperation"—instead of past attempts at "liquidation"—with what it called "reformist" groups.

Speaking for the national Americans for Democratic Action, Allen Taylor, New York State executive director, said "A. D. A. never has had and never will have any truck with Communists." He said that it "will continue to expose Communist efforts to subvert liberal organizations, including our own."

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who had been individually applauded by the Communists, said, "We have fought them since they first appeared on the American scene and we shall continue to fight them."

"No free trade union," Mr. Dubinsky said, "can work with a party or its individual members who have no faith in democracy, no loyalty to genuine trade unionism, who lack any show of elemental human conscience and who bear allegiance, not to this country in which they live, but only to the Communist leaders in the Kremlin."