

CP Leaders Vote to Support Fight for Daily Worker

Communist Party leaders from all parts of the country determined, at a conference over the weekend, to back to the hilt all efforts to maintain the Daily Worker.

The 150 leaders took more than half a day out of an election confab to hear Daily Worker editor John Gates on the condition of the paper and its plans for the future, and to debate their own views. They unanimously opposed any idea of eliminating the daily paper.

The conference voted to give full backing to the paper's \$50,000 fund appeal, publicly announced yesterday, and to stimulate participation in the public discussion on the paper's future, which Gates announced would be opened with the fund drive. Some delegates at the conference started the fund drive ball rolling right on the floor.

In his address, Gates said the continuous circulation declines of the past seven years have caused an acute, almost continuous, financial crisis. This has

been aggravated in recent months by the current ferment in left-wing ranks and the government's recent dictatorial seizure attempt under a phony tax excuse.

The acute crisis has given rise to the idea in some quarters that the Daily Worker should be given up in favor of a stronger weekly paper.

Gates reported that after serious discussion by the paper's editors, and considerable interchange of opinion with the paper's principal supporters, including the Communist Party's national committee, the paper's staff decided it was both necessary and possible to maintain the Daily Worker.

Gates maintained that if the paper were given up it would have partially accomplished what the government has failed to do in its many attacks on the paper, and would weaken the struggle for legality of the Marxist movement.

He said that today, when the workers and Negro people and farmers are moving ahead, the Communist movement is emerging from a state of illegal per-

secution and there are signs of socialist revival and desire for unity among socialist-minded and progressive labor groups, discontinuance of the Daily Worker would be a specially heavy loss.

"Weak as we are," Gates declared, "the Daily Worker is the most powerful voice of the Socialist Left; and is especially essential now to strengthen our movement."

He said the paper's staff was "conscious of the fact that our decision to keep the paper is not enough; it must be the decision of the paper's readers and supporters."

Hence, he noted, the decision to place the situation before the readers and to get their views on the paper's future, its contents and ways of circulating and financing.

He urged the conference participants to help organize the drive for funds, as well as to help stimulate circulation. An increase in circulation, he stated, would cut down the deficit.