

# U. S. REDS NEARING SPLIT IN THE PARTY

## Foster Believed Willing to Kill The Worker to Smash 'Right-Wing' Faction

by HARRY SCHWARTZ

The internal struggle in the Communist party here is now raging more violently than ever, recent developments indicate.

William Z. Foster has given evidence of the intensity of the struggle by denouncing Eugene Dennis, National Secretary of the party, and The Daily Worker as well as John Gates, Daily Worker editor, in the latest issue of the party's magazine, Political Affairs. There are persistent reports the Foster faction is seeking to kill off The Daily Worker, which it regards now as primarily the organ of the Gates "revisionist" faction. Foster is National Chairman emeritus.

The issue on which a final split in the Communist party here may occur, however, is the question of endorsing or not endorsing the Moscow declaration of twelve Communist parties released last month. That declaration, which depicts "revisionism" as the main danger Communists must fight is regarded by the Fosterites as vindicating their position against the Gates faction.

Gates and his "right wing" faction are termed revisionists by their opponents because they wish to adapt traditional Communist ideology to American realities and because they are willing to be critical of the Soviet Union. They are reported to believe that endorsement of the Moscow declaration, which calls the Soviet Union the head of the Communist world, demonstrates again the readiness of the Communist party here to take its lead from Moscow and would thereby end any chance of the party's revival as an American party.

### A New Stage in Fight

Foster's attack on Dennis appears to represent a new stage in the Communists' fight because it diminishes the possibility of any centralist position such as Dennis has tried to occupy. Foster charges that Dennis' position has "done much to deepen and prolong the party crisis" and that Dennis has "tended to appease and conciliate" the Gates faction.

Foster charges that The Daily Worker is now the "special mouthpiece" of the Gates faction, thus denying that it can any longer be regarded as the organ of the Communist party as a whole. He also declares that "revisionism" has come "to dominate most of the staff of The Daily Worker."

Sources close to the Communist party report that the party is now in a very strange position since the balance of power in its leadership does not actually correspond to the position within the party's shrunken rank and file. Since large numbers of those who sympathized with Gates have left the party in disgust this last year, the Fosterites probably represent a majority or nearly a majority of the remaining membership, though on the National Executive Committee the Fosterites are a minority before the combined Gates and Dennis groups.

Gates has been gaining some strength very recently, particularly in California and Pittsburgh. Recent criticism of him by the Soviet Communist party's specialist in foreign Communist parties' affairs, B. Ponomarev, has apparently backfired to some degree. A mild statement containing implied criticism of Mr. Ponomarev was adopted by the National Executive Committee of the Communist party at its meeting several weeks ago.

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