

180 Meet, Pledge Aid to Worker

Readers and friends of the Daily Worker at a conference to save and rebuild the paper Saturday rousingly condemned an editorial attack by the N. Y. Herald Tribune and pledged to "give the answer to your scurrilous editorial by increasing the Daily Worker's circulation. . . ."

One hundred and eighty friends of the paper, gathered at Academy Hall on Broadway, turned in \$1,240 for the paper on the spot and made plans for raising the \$25,000 needed by the year's end to put the fund campaign over the top.

The reply to the Tribune editorial, released yesterday, said in part:

"We regard your editorial not only as an indecent attack upon (editor-in-chief) John Gates but an affront to us and all other readers of the Daily Worker, as well as the Communist Party."

Term H-T 'Hypocritical'

It called the Trib's praise of Gates' record against Franco fascism "20 years too late and hypocritical," and proudly cited the Worker's record of support for "militant and clean trade unionism, for desegregation, for peaceful co-existence as the only way for humanity's survival," as the best answer to "attacks such as yours."

The statement was adopted on the suggestion of former City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, who read the H-T editorial to the meeting and scored it as "the lowest kind of gutter journalism." Urging support behind the Daily Worker, Davis predicted that the Herald-Tribune editorial would unite Daily Worker readers "like nothing else."

"We all stand as one against an attack by the class enemy, such as that by the Herald Tribune," he said.

Gates characterized the conference as "the most successful one yet, with a good constructive spirit."



He said there were still some differences of views, and added, "Let us debate them out as comrades and friends."

'Daily Will Survive'

The conference keynote was set by executive editor Simon W. Gerson who said the paper would survive. "I say this," he emphasized, "not out of any mystic faith but because the Daily Worker is based on the American workingclass."

Max Gordon, citing the paper's continuing grave financial situation due to loss of circulation and advertising revenue, said the shift to a four-page daily would cut the annual deficit from \$275,000 to \$160,000.

In the discussion garment workers pointed out they had never slackened their efforts, they had obtained 349 subs in eight months despite the crisis on the Left, planned to tackle 1956 renewals which went by the board, would set one day in the "market" for distribution of the paper, and wanted the full size paper back.

A Queens reader, turning in \$100 in advance on a pledge, and with well advanced plans to recoup losses, saw the Daily as potentially playing a major role in building a mass American party of socialism.

A plea for more "down to earth" writing was made and a motion adopted for a meeting of readers and staff to talk over political views at a separate meeting.

Gurley Flynn Gets Ovation

City Council candidate Elizabeth Gurley Flynn greeted with a standing ovation, recalled the achievements of the Daily Worker by reading from the chapter headings in "Fighting Words," a compilation of stories from the paper.

Instead of accentuating differences, "we should accentuate our agreements," she said. "We will find that a pretty wide platform to stand on!"

Steve Nelson heading the paper's campaign, said its achievements have "not gone down the drain," but the old answers were not enough, new ones must be given.

Among the decisions was one to hold a major affair in January to commemorate the paper's 34th anniversary, and the solicitations of greetings to the anniversary issue.

Roosevelt Ward Jr.'s sports column "The Pitch" will be resumed tomorrow.
