

# Communist Leaders Meet, Call Party National Convention

AMERICAN COMMUNISTS will hold their sixteenth national convention next December, it was announced yesterday (Wed.) by the party after a four-day enlarged national committee meeting at its national headquarters. Fifty party leaders from the principal State party organizations attended.

It was the first such full meeting of the national committee since 1951, when most of the committee members were imprisoned under the Smith Act. William Z. Foster, party national chairman, whose case was severed because of a grave cardiac ailment, appeared briefly at the meeting.

The convention will be preceded by a 60-day pre-convention discussion and an election conference after Labor Day.

After a vigorous three-day debate the national committee unanimously adopted a report submitted by Eugene Dennis, party general secretary, in which the latter called for "a new labor-democratic alignment capable of influencing the next Administration and Congress, and of subsequently bringing into power an administration and Congress committed to:

- "Peaceful negotiation and reducing international tension;
- "Promoting the security of the working people at the expense of the monopolists;
- "Upholding the Constitution and enforcing the Bill of Rights."

★  
WORLD growth of the demand for peace and disarmament has "forced the beginning of a certain agonizing reappraisal" on foreign policy in leading circles and both major parties, he said. But, he



DENNIS

added, "while both major parties strive to continue, although in a modified way, the basic aspects of monopoly's cold-war program," the fact is "the war danger has diminished and the areas of East-West conflicts has definitely shifted to the economic and ideological fields."

Discussing the struggle for Negro rights, Dennis, asserted that "a profound political crisis is developing in the Democratic Party, and a sharp constitutional crisis is arising in the nation." He noted that there is today "a revitalized Negro liberation movement, the upsurge of which has already reached unprecedented proportions especially in Alabama, Mis-

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# Auto Union Board Meets on Sharp Employment Drop

DETROIT, May 2.—The International executive board of the United Auto Workers, meeting here to consider the continuing and alarming fall in auto employment and production, will make known its estimate of the picture this weekend, a spokesman of the union announced here today.

## COMMANDANT TO CONGRESSMEN

The serious decline in the auto and farm equipment industry is the No. 1 topic before the union's weeklong meeting. Walter Reuther indicated last week, in a speech before the UAW's educa-

...nounced the appearance of the four Southern heroes.

Other speakers scheduled for the rally, held to mobilize support for the struggle of Negroes in the South for first-class citizenship, are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Roy Wilkins, Rev. James H. Robinson, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY) and A. Phillip Randolph, chairman of the sponsoring committee.

The mass rally is jointly sponsored by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, NAACP and several hundred churches, civic and labor groups throughout the city.

Brown stated that all funds raised from the affair will be allocated to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Montgomery Improvement Association, and to aid victims of Southern economic boycotts in South Carolina and Mississippi.

Co-chairman of the City-Wide Committee include Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop; Monsignor Cornelius Drew; Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick; Rev. C. Asapansa Johnson; Rabbi Edward Klein; and Rev. Sandy Ray.

Dr. C. B. Powell, editor and general manager of the Amsterdam News, is treasurer.

## C.P. Meets

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Mississippi and South Carolina.

"But also the fact is," he added, "that despite widespread sympathy and considerable support from the white masses, the struggles of the Negro people are far from receiving the aid and backing they need and should get from the white masses and, especially, the labor movement."

TONE of the meeting, said by party spokesmen to be the most self-critical in the party's history, was set by Dennis' searching examination of the last decade of the Party's work. While he found much that the party could be "proud" of in its work, the general secretary placed his principal emphasis on what he viewed as shortcomings and mistaken estimates which he characterized as "mainly left-sectarian in character."

"If we don't understand this, we will understand nothing and will be unable to draw the necessary conclusions to enable our Party to move forward and exercise the great initiative of which it is fully capable—and which the times call for," he said.

Communists made some mistaken estimates on the imminence of war, while correctly fighting the bi-partisan pro-war policies, he pointed out. He added that while correctly fighting McCarthyism, there had been tendency to underestimate the deep democratic traditions among the American people and their willingness to defend the Bill of Rights. There had also been an over-estimation of the

imminence of a deep cyclical economic crisis, he said. From some of these mistaken estimates, he said, wrong tactical conclusions had frequently followed.

Commenting on recent Smith Act trials, Dennis declared that "the thin ice of lies upon which the Smith Act and other such thought-control measures rest is cracking." Turning to the "startled press comments" evoked by Nikita Khrushchev's report to the recent 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Dennis pointed out that the idea of a peaceful transition to Socialism had been developed in the American Communist movement years ago.

DISCUSSING the "American road to socialism," Dennis recalled that as far back as 1917 "our party took note of the new world situation arising after world war II, and recognized that 'civil war is not inevitable in all capitalist countries' in the transition to socialism.

"As world experience has shown, and as the 20th Congress analyzed, there are many paths to socialism, and each country will find its own path depending on its own traditions, the conditions of its struggle for progress, and the desire of the vast majority of its people," Dennis said.

"There are also many forms of transition to socialism, and these are becoming more, not less diversified—including the possibility of transforming certain parliaments into peoples assemblies by constitutional majorities and mass movements.

"As for the United States, we American Communists re-affirm that we do not advocate force and violence. We do not consider civil war inevitable nor in any way desirable. We desire and seek constitutional and democratic solutions to current and fundamental problems. We favor and advocate a peaceful and democratic transition to socialism, recognizing, nonetheless, that this will entail big and sharp class struggles.

"It is our conviction that the course of world and national trends will increasingly favor the realization of those prerequisites whereby the possibility for peaceful and constitutional advance to socialism may eventually prevail."

Dennis said that "one of the unique aspects of political and social trends in this country in recent years is the revitalization and growth of a number of socialist-minded currents.

"Whatever may have been our attitude in the past, we American Communists, on the basis of our own experiences have come to realize that life is richer than theory and that certain developments in our country require a 'new look.' And this prompts us to state unequivocally that we can have only the most positive approach to all honest socialist and Marxist-oriented groupings and individuals, whatever our differ-

## Park Defenders

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air elsewhere."

He issued an eight-page blast at the critics, in defense of his financial transactions with Tavern-on-the-Green.

Justice Holstadter set a hearing for Friday on a permanent injunction.

The petition of the two plaintiffs, Norma Rosen and Sidney Freidberg, was noted that workmen already had cut down a number of trees and invaded a children's play area.

One of Moses' defendants in the City Council, Councilman Edward A. Cunningham, Bronx Democrat, cheerfully said that there is no play area now where the parking lot is under construction, and that the blacktop to be provided would make a nice playground up to 5 p.m.

Mothers, however, have pointed out that this playground is easily accessible only through the area Moses wants ploughed under. The only other access is by stairs which little children and mothers with baby-buggies can't navigate, or by a steep incline.

Even more important, they want the wooded area restored. Children a little older than the tots who want to be pushed in swings, like to play about on the green.

And to hold out to mothers an ideal of blacktop, after the number of children who have been injured and killed on playgrounds because of such a blacktop, here and in other cities, is expected to bring added protests.

Arthur Schleifer, president of Tavern-on-the-Green, Inc., told this newspaper earlier that the new additions nearing completion would increase the building's inside seating capacity from 650 to 775 and its outside capacity from 1,200 to 1,325.

The new additions plus parking lot will come to \$539,000, Moses revealed in his statement. In the next nine years the Tavern would get back \$434,000 by withholding that sum from the city.

Meanwhile the mothers who can't go to Spain for a breath of fresh air were planning to canvass nearby West Side streets to collect donations to continue their legal fight to save the park from "commercial invasion."

The Tavern-on-the-Green gross

Year	Gross	City share
1948	\$633,450	\$33,709
1949	757,860	40,403
1950	764,593	40,862
1951	822,146	44,850
1952	892,821	47,983
1953	967,059	52,023
1954	1,018,932	54,523
Totals	\$5,866,861	\$314,353

ences may be on certain tactical and programmatic questions."

ADDITIONAL reports were submitted to the meeting by Claude Lightfoot, Illinois Party chairman on the election campaign and by Max Weiss, national educational director of the Party on the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and were thoroughly discussed. Contents of all reports will be submitted to the party membership for discussion during June and July. Preliminary documents for the national convention will develop out of this 60-day discussion.

(Further details on these reports will be made public shortly).

**Tomorrow—FRIDAY, MAY 4th**  
8 P.M.

**Haloise Moorhead**  
(Leader, Negro Rights and women's peace movement)

**Fred Fine**  
(Defendant, current N.Y. Smith Act trial)

**People's Artists**  
(Original pageant in word and song)

**In a Mother's Day Tribute to**  
**ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN**

**Great Northern Hotel—West 57th St. (bet. 6-7th Ave.)**  
Contribution at Door \$1.00 (Sponsored by: Families of the Smith Act Victims)