

FOSTER'S RED LINE SPURNED BY PARTY

Convention Blames 'Errors' for Political Isolation — New Test Due Today

By PETER KIHSS

William Z. Foster, Communist national chairman, appeared last night to have lost a major party round. The Communist national convention blamed the party's political isolation here chiefly on "Left-sectarian errors."

The struggle for party control—in which Mr. Foster's views have been endorsed by Soviet and French Communists—was headed for an even more important showdown. This was on the question of whether the party here should accept Soviet Communist leadership on basic principles or make its own interpretation in the light of American conditions.

What might be called the "independent" line barely carried in subcommittee by a 14-to-11 vote. A convention vote at the Chateau Gardens, 105 East Houston Street, appeared likely to be deferred until the convention's final sessions today.

To Move Office to Chicago

In other moves yesterday, the convention:

¶ Instructed that national headquarters be moved "within one year" from New York to Chicago, as a centrally located section "in which large concentrations of Negro industrial workers play an important role in key unions" and near major agricultural areas.

¶ Adopted a resolution to cooperate with—instead of seeking to destroy as "social Fascists"—social democratic organizations, labor leaders such as David Dubinsky, Walter P. Reuther and A. Philip Randolph, and "bourgeois reformists" such as the liberal Democrats and Americans for Democratic Action.

¶ Voted to support the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in seeking to end racial segregation in Southern schools, instead of working through left-wing organizations. Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the association, immediately said: "We reject their support and do not need it. What the party seeks is confusion, not solution."

Mr. Foster on Saturday had in effect called for a purge of "Right tendency" leaders, in particular criticizing John Gates,

editor of The Daily Worker. But the Gates group and Eugene Dennis, general secretary, appeared to be getting together to weld at least a public unity.

Resolution Lists 'Errors'

Yesterday morning, the convention took up its basic draft resolution listing the "Left-sectarian errors." Cited were such mistakes as overrating the danger of war, virtually giving up a "fight for legality," seeing major depressions under way in the United States and failing to develop intraparty democracy.

A majority report, submitted by William Schneiderman of California, ascribed such troubles to "1951 decisions on the system of leadership." Mr. Dennis and Mr. Gates were both imprisoned from July 2, 1951, to March 1, 1955, for conspiracy to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the Government; Mr. Foster had remained the top leader at liberty.

The Schneiderman report carried in subcommittee by 19 to 6. In a pro-Foster minority report, Miss Esther Cantor of New York contended there was a growing Rightist danger in the party. The draft, she charged, overestimated party errors and underestimated outside problems.

While reporters were limited throughout the day to briefings by party spokesmen, the closed-door convention appeared to have undergone some intense politicking and counting of noses in smoke-filled chambers.

New Draft Called 'Victory'

Late yesterday Sid Stein, chairman of the resolutions committee, came out with a new proposal worked out by various leaders, which he called "a victory for the party."

The proposal retained all the basic confession of Leftist errors. It simply added that the party must struggle against both Left-sectarianism and Right-opportunism "with the main emphasis against that

which threatens the Marxist line of our party at the given moment."

Mr. Foster apparently gave way and was reported to have voted for the little-amended majority report. Mr. Stein said there were only three nays and seven abstentions. A final credentials report yesterday said the convention had 298 delegates and twenty-eight alternates attending from thirty-four states, with 165 guests and observers.

The "independence" showdown involved typically obscure party language, in another majority report from a subcommittee. This said the party bases its theory on principles particularly developed by Marx, Engels and Lenin, which it "interprets, and applies, and strives to develop further, in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle and democratic tradition."

The convention went on to adopt a resolution saying the party here advocated "a peaceful, constitutional, democratic road to socialism in the United States."

Chicago Doesn't Want Them

CHICAGO, Feb. 11 (UP)—Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley said tonight: "We don't want 'em," when told the Communist party had decided to switch its headquarters to Chicago. "Why don't they go to Moscow?" he asked.