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ELECTED BY REDS: Benjamin J. Davis, state chairman of Communist party.

STATE REDS PICK DAVIS AS LEADER

Naming of Foster Aide Seen as Defeat for Nationalistic Forces Led by Gates

A setback for relatively nationalistic forces in the Communist party of the United States was indicated yesterday. Former City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis has been elected state chairman.

Davis has been the chief lieutenant of William Z. Foster, national chairman emeritus, in struggles with a group led by John Gates, editor of *The Daily Worker*. The Gates group has been more critical of Soviet policies.

However, Davis said yesterday in response to questions that he had voted for a resolution on the Jewish issue at the state convention March 31. This criticized Soviet failure to make a long-promised statement on measures against anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

The former state chairman, George Blake Charney, a Gates associate, has been elected executive secretary. The state committee said "Davis and Charney will share equal responsibility." But the Davis-Foster group thus gained at least a 50-50 role, as against former complete control by the Gates group.

The election was held at a meeting May 25, the state committee announced. Also chosen were George Watt as organization secretary; William Albertson, labor secretary, and William Weinstone, educational director. A state board of twenty-three members, whose names were withheld, was chosen to conduct affairs between bi-monthly meetings of the full sixty-member committee.

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