

The New N. E. C. Meets

By Louis C. Fraina

Report of the Meeting of the National Executive Committee, Socialist Party—Chicago, July 26-27.

THE newly-elected National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party—meeting in spite of the sabotage of the party bureaucracy—has fulfilled the revolutionary expectations of the members who placed it in power.

The new N. E. C. has declared that the Socialist Party must become *the Communist Party of the United States*. It re-instates all expelled or suspended comrades.

The new N. E. C. urges the party membership to elect Left Wing delegates to the Emergency Convention at Chicago, August 30.

The new N. E. C. requests the co-operation of the National Council of the Left Wing Section Socialist Party, and its official organ, *The Revolutionary Age*.

These acts are historic. They assure the formation of the Communist Party of the United States. . . . All decisions were unanimous.

The N. E. C. met Saturday morning at the Bradley Hall, Chicago. Present: from District One—Louis C. Fraina and Edward I. Lindgren; from District Two—Fred Harwood, Marguerite Prevey, C. E. Ruthenberg; from District Three—William Bross, Lloyd; from District Four—none; from District Five—L. E. Katterfeld and H. M. Wicks. Eight members were present, constituting a majority and a quorum of the whole committee.

Comrade Katterfeld called the meeting to order. Chairman: Katterfeld; Secretary, A. Wagenknecht.

Harwood and Katterfeld were elected a committee to tabulate the vote on the elections. They reported that the eight members present were duly elected with a vote so large as to dispose of the lying charge of fraud, as were: District One—Nicholas I. Hourwich; District Three—Dennis E. Batt and John Keracher; District Four—Dan Hogan, Mary R. Millis and Pat Nagel; District Five—Kate Greenhalgh. The committee further reported that Louis C. Fraina, John Reed, C. E. Ruthenberg and A. Wagenknecht were elected overwhelmingly as International Delegates and Kate Richards O'Hare as International Secretary.

A committee was elected to demand of Executive Secretary Adolph Germer to turn over the National Headquarters to the new N. E. C. and appear at its sessions. This demand was presented in writing to Germer, who refused.

At the afternoon session, the following motion was adopted: "That we declare the office of National Executive Secretary vacant, inasmuch as the present incumbent violates his functions by refusing to tabulate the vote on referendums expressing the will of the membership, and refuses to recognize the regularly elected N. E. C." A. Wagenknecht was elected to act as temporary secretary until the convention of August 30.

Motion: "that the Massachusetts and Michigan state organizations be re-instated in the Party, and that the suspension of the Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, South Slavic, Hungarian, Lettish and Ukrainian Socialist Federations be revoked.

This means that these expelled Left Wing organizations can elect regular delegates to the Emergency Convention; where this is impossible, suspended and expelled comrades must organize Left Wing organizations independent of the party and elect contesting delegates.

The N. E. C. condemned the expulsions and suspensions perpetrated by state and local organizations, and demanded re-instatement. It calls upon members to purchase convention assessment stamps; money from this source not to be sent to the old N. E. C., but held by the State Secretaries and given to the convention delegates.

Plans were made to raise money to defray extra cost of delegates; all members are urged to contribute, and the Yipsels are asked to cooperate.

The new N. E. C. decided to assume full

control of the Emergency Convention. A committee of three consisting of Ruthenberg, Harwood and Fraina, was elected to draft a declaration of the issues before the convention. The declaration, unanimously adopted, declared that the issues were not comprised in party democracy against party autocracy, but of revolutionary proletarian Socialism against moderate petty bourgeois Socialism, and affirmed: "Out of the Emergency Convention must come the Communist Party of the United States." (This declaration was incorporated in a final declaration—published in full elsewhere in this issue.)

State secretaries on motion, were urged not to purchase dues stamps, unless absolutely necessary, in which event they can purchase regular party stamps from Temporary Secretary Wagenknecht. (This does not include expelled and suspended organizations, which will buy stamps from the National Council of the Left Wing.)

Several motions were passed to prevent the old N. E. C. from retaining control of party property.

Motion: "That we recognize the National Council of the Left Wing Section, Socialist Party, organized at the National Left Wing Conference, June 21-24, and its official organ, *The Revolutionary Age*, as an organized expression of the revolutionary sentiments of the party, and that we request their co-operation." Unanimously adopted.

A committee of three, consisting of Katterfeld, Fraina and Wicks, was elected to draft a final declaration to the party. The declaration after slight amendments, was unanimously adopted. (Printed below.)

After discussion of organization problems, a committee of three, consisting of Katterfeld, Wagenknecht and Harwood, was elected to bring in an organization report to the next session of the N. E. C., August 28, in Chicago.

The final act of the N. E. C. was to express its confidence in the revolutionary spirit of the membership, which would align the party with the new International.

N. E. C. Declaration to the Party

THIS meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party occurs under extraordinary circumstances. Elected by the votes of the membership—overwhelmingly—it is compelled to meet without the co-operation of the old party administration.

The old N. E. C., overwhelmingly repudiated on referendum, usurped power and attempted to prevent the new N. E. C. from functioning. This usurpatory action, together with the expulsion and suspension of more than 35,000 revolutionary comrades from the party, is a desperate move to retain control of the party for moderate, counter-revolutionary Socialism.

The old N. E. C. is dead; it throttled the

Comrade Hiltzik, who spoke for the Jewish Federation (Left Wing), was afterwards repudiated by his Executive Committee on the point of separating himself from the Conference majority, though approved for his stand on the principle of a Communist Party.

The later discussions will show the crystallization of sentiment for a new Communist Party to be launched September first, at Chicago, with delegates so instructed by membership groups from all over the country.

Issued by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

—An American Communist Party Urged.

will of the revolutionary masses in the party; you comrades, must act; we meet simply to provide you the opportunity to act and assert your supremacy.

At this moment of crisis—of crisis in the world of Capitalism and of Socialism—action is imperative. Action is imperative against Capitalism and against moderate Socialism in the party.

Your N. E. C., accordingly, acting under mandate of the party membership, convened in session at Chicago, July 26-27.

It met to rally our revolutionary forces for the struggle against Capitalism.

It met to rally the party members for the definite assertion of Communist Socialism in the American movement.

It met as a revolutionary N. E. C. expressing the revolutionary sentiments in the party.

Your N. E. C., by unanimous decision of the members in session decided:

1.—To oust National Executive Secretary

Germer, who refuses to recognize your N. E. C. as the organ of the party.

2.—To re-instate the expelled State organizations of Michigan and Massachusetts, and the suspended Language Federation restoring to the party, with all rights, more than 35,000 comrades.

3.—To re-organize the Socialist Party as a Communist Party, in harmony with our affiliation with the Communist International.

4.—To call upon the members, regardless of the party-wrecking old N. E. C., to rally to the support of the class war prisoners.

5.—To consider seriously and comprehensively problems of organization shamefully neglected by the old party administrations.

6.—To request the co-operation of the National Council of the Left Wing Section, Socialist Party (and its official organ, "*The Revolutionary Age*") as an organized expression of the revolutionary sentiments of the party.

7.—To assume full control of the Emergency National Convention on August 30, the old N. E. C. and its executive secretaries leaving no authority to organize or postpone this Convention. We will shortly inform you of the place

(Continued on next page.)