

Communist Assn. Born; Constitution Adopted

By LOUIS F. BUDENZ

Pledging to forward America's best traditions, the Communist Political Association was formally organized yesterday at a constitutional convention at the Riverside Plaza Hotel.

Exactly at 1 p.m., the motion which adopted the new association's constitution in full was passed unanimously and the organization was born. A five minute demonstration greeted the adoption of the motion.

"The Communist Political Association is a non-party organization of Americans," say the first words of the preamble to the constitution of the association which "basing itself upon the working class, carries forward the traditions of Washington, Jefferson, Paine, Jackson and Lincoln, under the changed conditions of modern industrial society."

This preamble was adopted early in the morning session upon motion of Earl Browder, general secretary of the now-dissolved Communist Party.

In explaining the preamble Browder said in part: "We have given in this preamble the firm basis of our movement upon the best traditions of America from the American Revolution on and at the same time we have very carefully eliminated any suggestion that this means a tendency to return to the past, but that it is a complete facing of the future on the basis of the best achievement of the past."

Immediately upon the passage of the preamble, Chairman Roy Hudson of Constitution Committee presented the new constitution which was adopted, first seriatim, then as a whole. Under its provisions officers of the association will be a president, vice-president and a secretary-treasurer, to be elected by the national convention, highest authority in the association.

A national committee is provided for, to carry through the decisions of the national convention. It shall select a national board, the size of this board to be decided upon by a majority vote of the national committee. The number of vice-presidents and the size of the national committee are to be fixed by the hands of the convention.

DUES DISCUSSION

Extensive debate dealt yesterday with dues. The Constitution Committee had recommended that flat dues of \$1 a month be charged with special dues of 50 cents or 25 cents per month to be granted by the club secretary where special circumstances so require. Annual dues were set at \$10 per year for those who wish to pay in that manner.

The debate arose over the second provision. Phil Bart of Illinois and Andrew Onda of Connecticut argued that there should be a fixed sum set for the dues classification below

(Continued on Page 4)



Two of the nation's top-scoring fighter pilots, Capt. John T. Goddard, left, and Capt. Don Gentile, right, smile at their mothers after a reunion 30-day leave, the airmen, who flew sorties together, agreed they would not rely on other's aid, nor would their score of enemy planes be as high without

CIO Accuses NLRB of Retreat From Principles of Wagner Act

WASHINGTON, May 21 (UP).—The Congress of Industrial Organizations, accused the National Labor Relations Board tonight of retreating from the principles of the Wagner Act and showing "irresponsibility and a complete lack of understanding of our war problems."

The blast was the second aimed at the board by the CIO in the past month. It singled out member Gerard Reilly, blaming him for the new policies and for "subverting the fundamental principles of the National Labor Relations Act."

The charges were contained in a resolution adopted by CIO vice-presidents at a conference with President Philip Murray and Secretary-Treasurer James Carey.

CHARGE WLRB RETREAT

"Organized labor has been watching with increasing concern the series of decisions and administrative rulings by the board during the war period," the CIO said.

The CIO had three complaints: 1. The American News Case, in which the board denied protection of the Wagner Act to employees who struck to force an employer to grant an illegal wage increase. The CIO said the NLRB had illegally assumed the right "to inquire into

the legitimacy of action taken by the union" and then had denied rights guaranteed by the act. Murray previously had denounced the Decision.

2. Decisions on the right of foremen to organize in which the resolution said the board had "succeeded in floundering so long as to provoke the situation (recent foremen's strikes in 13 plants) which developed in Detroit." The CIO said foremen had been given "class B citizenship."

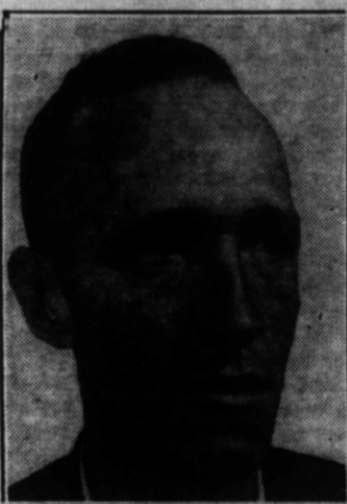
3. The NLRB proposal to permit employers to challenge a union's bargaining status in disputes referred to the War Labor Board. The resolution said the proposed rule "actually threatens the existence of labor unions."

"In the face of labor's no-strike pledge the proposed regulation would invite a wave of petitions by employers intent upon delaying bona fide collective bargaining and thereby unquestionably provoke strife and turmoil with a terrifying impact upon war production," the CIO said.

How to Pressure Congre

Communist Assn. Born; Delegates Adopt Constitution

(Continued from Page 2)



ROY HUDSON

Delivered Report on Constitution



ISRAEL AMTER

Made Motion for New Organization



GIL GREEN

Reported on Reconversion

Negro recruiters in New York, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Delaware and the Deep South is ample proof."

And it's not only the new Negro Communists who are doing this splendid work. One can find similar stories among the old timers, like Ben Carruthers, a leader of the Western Pennsylvania OPA. Ben had recruited 44 new members up until the time he left the smoky atmosphere of that great steel center to journey as a delegate to the convention. Sally Peek, a cafeteria worker in Jimcrow Washington brought in a modest 10 new members, and she's still plugging. Herb Hall, a Baltimore shipyard worker got 11 of his fellow-workers to join up and he's still plugging.

Of the 402 regular and fraternal delegates to the convention, 64 are Negroes. And many of them are key leaders in their unions and in the CPA. From among the total of 24,000 new members recruited in the national drive, nearly 8,000 are Negro industrial workers, white collar employes, professionals, housewives with a sprinkling of educators and clergymen.

These facts, are one of the truly inspiring features of the convention

those paying \$1. Frederick N. Myers of New York and others spoke for the committee proposal and the matter was referred back to that body for further consideration.

Whatever the final report of that committee on this one point, the former Communist Party dues method of payment by income has been eliminated for the association.

Upon motion of Charles Krumbein of New York, it was then agreed that initiation fees shall not be required of anyone joining the association before July 4.

Yesterday afternoon the convention went into executive session to hear a report by John Williamson for the Organization Education Committee of the convention. Subreports were given on the educational work by Sam Don and on the press by Louis Budenz. Many other delegates participated in the discussion, which was not open to the general press and therefore will not be reported in detail in this account.

NOTED VISITORS

In the evening the delegates were moved to heights of enthusiasm by the speeches of noted Latin-American fraternal delegates who had been introduced to the meeting earlier in the day. Among these speakers were Senator Elias Laferte, president of the Communist Party of Chile; Salvador Ocampo, member of the Chamber of Deputies, secretary of the Chilean Confederation of Labor and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; Senator August Duran, general secretary of the Communist Party of Colombia and Juan Luna, member of the Peruvian Congress and secretary of the Committee for Labor Unity of Peru.

A series of vital resolutions, which are summarized on this page, were adopted in the afternoon and evening session Saturday. They evoked a lively and informative discussion.

William Z. Foster, chairman of the first session of the new association, emphasized the threat of the Hoover-Dewey-McCormick Republican leadership to the winning of the war and to postwar collaboration among the nations to maintain world peace. "Their line, had it succeeded," Foster stressed, "would have stalemated the war and led to a disastrous negotiated peace with Hitler."

"A Dewey," the speaker continued, "would not prosecute the war to a complete victory, smash fascism throughout Europe, or formulate a democratic peace."

The Republicans and Dewey present a grave danger to the labor movement, Foster said, and it is up to labor with other patriotic forces to see to it that reaction is thoroughly defeated in 1944.

Gilbert Green of New York, speaking of the urgency of immediate attention to the problem of reconversion said "we face the prospect of sizeable unemployment of experienced workers in the midst of the war effort" due to the cut-back policy. This was a definite reason, he said, why the matter of reconversion "must be grappled with now."

Under the resolution on the South, Alice Burke of Virginia told of the fizzled "Byrd for President" campaign. She brought the good word that the payment of poll taxes in several districts is leading to the withdrawal of reactionaries from the race, as was the case with "Windbag" Harris, a close ally of Byrd's. On the resolution against anti-Semitism, Toohy of Michigan said that this evil is "alien to our country" and emphasized Detroit's sad experience in the race riots and the continuance of Coughlinism there.

The convention continues its sessions today.