

The Communist Convention

THE special national convention of the Communist Political Association opens in New York today. In the name of this paper, which had opened its pages to the two-month discussion of Communist policy, we extend warmest greetings to the delegates.

Beyond a doubt, this gathering of American Communists is among the most important ever held. The eyes of the entire Communist movement are upon it. So are the eyes of the most advanced sections of the labor movement and progressives generally. Friends are looking to this convention with hope. Foes of every kind are watching it with undisguised fear. And that is how things should be.

Out of this convention will unquestionably come a strengthening of the program and organization of the American Communist movement. And such a strengthening will deal a blow to the forces of reaction, those who want to short-circuit a democratic victory in Europe and Asia, those who are deliberately running the country toward economic crisis, those who are out to wreck the friendship of our own country and its allies, especially the Soviet Union.

And the harder the blows to reaction, the greater the Communist contribution to the working people, to national progress. As for the weaknesses of the past, we are sure a firm basis will be laid for overcoming them. A new chapter will be opened in the service of the Communists to the working class and the nation.

It is a limited convention in terms of numbers, because of government travel regulations. But it will be a powerful convention in terms of the character of its delegates, the majority of whom come from the shops and major industrial centers. They have been elected from their respective state conventions, which brought together thousands of the most active and representative workers.

The delegates come prepared with the results of the most thorough self-examination ever to take place in any American political organization. Every policy and deed of the past has been publicly and mercilessly examined. No one has been spared the democratic searchlight of the membership. And the result is bound to be—as it already is—a deeper unity, a more effective program of action, a great step forward. We wish the delegates well in their momentous tasks.