

# JOHN GATES COMMENTS ON HOWARD FAST STATEMENT

John Gates, editor-in-chief, of the Daily Worker, asked to comment by the N. Y. Times on statements made by Howard Fast, said yesterday:

"I regret very much that Mr. Fast is allowing himself to be used in this fashion by people who have little in common with what Mr. Fast has always stood for and presumably still stands for.

"The impression is created in the quotations published in the N. Y. Times interview that the American Communist Party stands for force and violence. This is not true, and Mr. Fast knows it to be untrue. The recent national convention of the Communist Party took a strong position against the use of force and violence in the achievement of American socialism. Any individual who advocates any such ideas is subject to expulsion according to our party constitution.

"In creating the impression, perhaps inadvertently, that the Communist Party advocates force and violence, Mr. Fast is lending grist to the mill of those who want to push the Smith Act and other thought control cold war legislation.

"It is true that Mr. Fast ascribes the statement to a sympathizer, but the average reader makes no fine distinction between sympathizing with the Communist Party and actual membership. I wish to make crystal clear that in no way, shape, or form does the American Communist Party advocate the use of force and violence."

In a story by Harry Schwartz, the N. Y. Times yesterday quoted Fast as saying that "a wealthy Communist sympathizer here wished to see bloody civil war in American streets."

Fast told newsmen he had written a 25,000-word article explaining his position in a new magazine, called "Prospectus" which he said will be published about Oct. 1. Gabriel Glasstone, 28-year-old investment broker, is the publisher.

"I had to write this because of a series of pressures which have built up over the past year and a half which in effect demand that I make my position plain.

"And I don't give a damn if it brings me before a Congressional committee because no matter how many times I'm brought before them I intend to take the Fifth Amendment."