



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

February 8, 1956

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA

Eugene Dennis Emerging As Top National Leader

Eugene Dennis, general secretary, is emerging as the principal and dominant figure in the national leadership of the Communist Party, USA. While William Z. Foster, who will be 75 years old late this month, continues as national chairman, he no longer directs the Party's day-to-day work. Other key national leaders who work closely with Dennis are Max Weiss, Fred Fine and John Gates. These individuals, together with Claude Lightfoot, Carl Winter and Jack Stachel, are said to formulate the Party's general policy and to make its important decisions. It is reported that Gates may be urged to leave his post as editor in chief of the Daily Worker, east coast Communist newspaper, and become head of the New York State Communist Party in order to strengthen this important district in which approximately half of all Communists in the United States are located.

Dennis Endeavoring to Consolidate His Leadership

The new Party leadership, which is gradually forming around the policies promulgated by Dennis, has become critical of Foster's past leadership. The Dennis leadership is said to be in the process of selecting Party people of its own outlook with which to penetrate every district organization and committee for the purpose of effectuating Dennis' policies.

Effect of Internal Security Act Ruling Contemplated

As previously reported, the United States Supreme Court, during its current term, will probably pass on the constitutionality of the Internal Security Act of 1950, frequently referred to as the McCarran Act. In the event the registration provisions of this act are upheld by the Court, the Communist Party, USA, does not contemplate allowing the general membership



DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	112-005-3-12-4
By	CM
NLDDE Date	2/8/56

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 8, 1956

to register but to have only a few top leaders register if necessary. The Party also contemplates reactivating its elaborate underground apparatus should the Government order numerous arrests of Party officials and of rank-and-file members who refuse to register. It is further planned that the national convention, long overdue, will be held within the 30-day period following the Supreme Court's ruling, provided this decree is adverse to the Party. On the other hand, if the decision is favorable to the Party, the date of this convention will be set for a later time.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Nomination of Negro Congressional Candidates Pushed

The Communist Party is concentrating in such large cities as Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Philadelphia to influence both major political parties to nominate more Negro candidates for Congress in the 1956 elections. In the last city, for instance, Communists were among those who urged Susie Monroe, Negro woman member of the Pennsylvania legislature, to sponsor a rally to be held February 12, 1956, ostensibly in connection with the Emmett Till case but actually to lay groundwork for the nomination of a Negro for Congress from the Fourth Congressional District in Philadelphia.

Progressive Party Affiliate in New Jersey Dissolves

With the decision of the Progressive Party to abolish its organization in New Jersey, another affiliate of the Communist-influenced Progressive Party has decided to disband. As previously reported, Progressive Party units in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Washington, D. C., planned to close their headquarters. Activities of the Progressive Party have gradually declined nationally as a result of the withdrawal of Communist support following the 1952 elections.

FRONT ACTIVITY

National Lawyers' Guild (NLG) to Hold Annual Convention

The NLG will hold its 14th annual convention in Detroit, February 10-13, 1956. This convention is expected to deal largely with the efforts of the NLG to prevent the Attorney General from designating the organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

