

*Ch.:* The Chair recognizes Comrade Foster.

*William Z. Foster:* Comrades, I, too, want to support this recommendation. I think it is the best we can do under the circumstances, which are quite difficult, of course. And I, too, want to support the general work of this convention.

Over the past months, our Party has confronted a whole series of very serious problems, and these have called upon us for our best knowledge of Marxism-Leninism in working them out. And during the course of this discussion, something has happened which has never happened before in the history of the Communist Party,

and that is the tremendous role that has been taken by the rank and file of the Party in the districts in solving many of these problems. (Applause.) All sorts of questions—I could name a dozen of them offhand—that have been solved, and some of them of the most basic character, have been solved by the discussion that has been carried on in the *Daily Worker* and other papers.

Now this Convention here is a continuation of this same healthy process. I think everybody will agree, especially comrades who have been at previous conventions of the Party, that this has been primarily a rank and file convention. The officials of the Party, as far as I have been able to gather, have had not so much to say as we have had in previous conventions, I can assure you.

Now, comrades, the process of this convention, it seems to me, has not reversed what has been taking place through all these months of discussion in solving these various problems, but has continued this process, and brought us to a climax in the general line and the various documents that have been produced by the convention. And I must say that I have voted for every one of these documents, that I have been present when they were adopted, and so far as I know, there were no others that I would vote against.

The work of this convention, it seems to me we have got to understand it, as Johnny said, as a victory for the Party, and not a victory for any particular group or faction in the Party. (Applause.) Comrades, we have

been passing through a very severe test in every respect, and it would be silly on our part to say that we have resolved all the differences that exist in the Party and amongst the leadership. But I think we have done one thing, and that is, we have solved some of the biggest of these problems in this convention, and we have laid the groundwork for the solving of more of them.

Comrades, as I said in the opening of this convention, the bourgeoisie of this country was sure that we were going to split our Party in this convention. Well, we just didn't do it! (Applause.) On the contrary, we have laid the basis for unity, and comrades, if we act as Communists should, my opinion is that we should be able to develop this unity from the point we have arrived at here, and go forward with the re-building of our Party.

I want to say again, as I said at the beginning, this is the Communist Party that you're dealing with; this is not an ordinary party; this is the party of socialism. And we must understand it as such. And we must cherish this party. And no matter how sharply we may struggle amongst ourselves, we must always bear in mind the unity of the Party. There is nothing more precious than the unity of our Party, for without that, we have nothing! (Applause.)