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held in 1953, a report was given on the Party's work among Negroes. The report asserted that in recent years there had been a decline in Negro membership and noted the reasons therefor:

"...The attacks upon our Party by the white ruling class, the concessions, even though few, thrown in the direction of Negro reformists, the growth of Red-baiting influences among Negroes, and the lack of sufficient struggle by the Party to adjust to these new developments, have, among other causes, contributed to this decline...."50

In November, 1954, the New York State Communist Party, which is the largest district in the country, commented on the loss of Negro members, giving as the reasons for this decline, the attacks made against the Party and the failure of Party clubs, sections, and higher bodies to maintain their vanguard communist role of militant struggle in behalf of Negro rights.

As of June 30, 1956, the Negro membership of the Communist Party, USA, was reliably estimated to be seven per cent of the total national membership of the Party. The total national membership was estimated at slightly less than 20,000. The Party's Negro membership is in marked contrast to 1947 when there were nearly 13,000 Negroes, or 17 per cent, in the total national membership of the Party of 75,400.

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