

The Party Reorganization

By Wm. Z. Foster

FOR the past three years our party has had before it the question of its reorganization upon the basis of shop nuclei. We have had much talk upon the subject, and within the last year the first real steps have been taken towards reorganization. But these were the merest beginnings. The recent sessions of the Enlarged Executive of the Comintern devoted the major part of their attention to the question of the reorganization of the parties and Bolshevization generally. Consequently, all over the world the reorganization process has been stimulated in the various parties. Our party is no exception to the general-rule. At the party convention just ended it was clearly manifest that our party now fully realizes that it must be reorganized and is willing to undertake this important task. Our party is now actually entering into the period of reorganization.

The party stands to benefit enormously from the reorganization, coupled with the whole process of Bolshevization. The present system of organization is altogether unfit for a Communist party. The language branches are an even more primitive and ineffective form of organization than the purely territorial form common to social-democratic parties throughout the world. So long as our present form exists we cannot function effectively as the vanguard of the proletariat. The reorganization of the party on the basis of shop nuclei is a first requisite for our party's active and effective participation in all phases of the class struggle.

IN all its spheres of activity the power of the party will be increased by its reorganization on a shop nuclei basis. Not the least of the advantages accruing will be an intensification and extension of our industrial work. This will come inevitably be-

cause of the shop nuclei form of organization tending to throw our party more directly into the struggles of the workers for better conditions in the industries. This type of party unit will bring home to us with greater force the problems of the workers in the shops and factories. Its general effect will be to greatly stress the necessity for our more active participation in all phases of trade union activity.

The antiquated language branch is a conglomeration of workers of all industries. It does not reflect the life and struggles of the workers in any particular industry. Consequently its tendency is to devote itself not to the real struggles of the workers but to affairs of a much more minor character. The shop nucleus, on the other hand, composed solely of workers in one industry, is by the very nature of things confronted and animated by the problems and movements of the

workers in that industry. Every cut in wages, every act of tyranny of the employers, every movement of unrest of the masses inevitably precipitates itself into the life of the nucleus in the industry concerned.

CONSEQUENTLY the question of trade union organization must always occupy a leading position in the activity of the shop nucleus. If the workers have no unions the problem of organizing them into such is an ever present one before the shop nucleus. It must fasten its attention upon this great problem of the organization of the unorganized until eventually a trade union is founded. If there are company unions in its industry inevitably the shop nucleus will be forced to fight this institution of the employers, aiming to destroy it or to turn it into a real labor organization. If there are trade unions in the industry their actions in defense of the workers' interests, or

their failure to act, are also bound to be matters of constant and major importance to the shop nucleus involved. In all industries the shop nuclei will feel a direct and urgent impulse for the powerful organization of our party fractions in the trade unions.

Let us therefore, proceed diligently with the reorganization of our party that is now being prosecuted. The effective completion of this great task means to multiply the efficiency of our party, not only in the activity here elaborated upon, trade union work, but in every field of party activity. Doubters and those who meet the party reorganization campaign with passive resistance should be pushed aside and this great task made the first order of business throughout the party. The speed and effectiveness with which we accomplish the party reorganization will show very much the degree of Bolshevization that our party as a whole has arrived at.