

Fighting the New Offensive Against the Foreign Born

(This is the conclusion of the Central Committee directives on the struggle for the protection of the foreign born.—Editor.)

By F. BROWN

How to Correct Our Shortcomings.

Is it possible to correct the shortcomings and develop the campaign to a tremendous movement that will defeat the Hoover-Doak offensive and at the same time rally round the Party large masses of foreign-born workers who through this campaign can and must be drawn into the daily struggle of the American working class? Nobody can doubt that. It is the problem of involving the Party as a whole in this struggle, as one of the major struggles, that we are facing.

The proposals of how to overcome the shortcomings, how to conduct the campaign, etc., are already embodied in the positive side of the seven major reasons registered, which explain the weakness of the campaign, and which are contained in many Party documents, in the instructions of the National Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born worked out especially after the last Party Plenum.

Nevertheless, I am enumerating those which are the most important. In order to revive and develop the campaign for the Protection of the Foreign Born, it is necessary:

1. Development of the campaign against the new offensive of the Federal government. This must be connected and dramatized through local struggles against the discrimination by which the foreign-born workers are affected—on city and neighborhood scale, and at places of work (for example, refusal to hire foreign-born workers on public works, discharging foreign-born workers in the construction of public works, road constructions, etc., if they are not citizens; deportations in connection with strikes or militant participation in the revolutionary movement; discrimination in the distribution of relief, assignment of jobs, revocation of citizen papers, etc.).

The campaign has to be connected with the struggle against wage-cuts, with the campaign against the terrorization of the Negro masses, and, in general, with the struggle in the shops and the struggle of the workers as a whole against the capitalist offensive on the standard of living of the American workers.

2. A vigorous, wide, agitational campaign must be developed in our press against the new wave of terror launched by the Hoover government.

3. To strengthen the National Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, drawing in more representatives of the mass organizations, of the revolutionary unions, locals of the A. F. of L. and other organizations which we are drawing into the campaign.

4. To strengthen the Districts and City Committees for the Protection of the Foreign Born through conferences in all those districts where the committees disappeared—conferences called in line with the revival of the campaign against the new offensive launched by the federal government.

5. The language mass organizations must be awakened to the realization that this is their major campaign at the present moment, through the activating and enlightenment of our Party fractions within the mass organizations.

6. The I. L. D. shall work hand in hand with the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born. The tasks of the two organizations have already been laid down. While the major task of the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born is to conduct a wide, continuous, agitational campaign to lead the struggle for the protection of the foreign born in general, in giving legal advice, etc., the I. L. D. is to participate in the campaigns and to take care of the legal defense of the individual cases. Certainly the development of the campaign will enable the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born in supporting the I. L. D. in its campaign for funds concerning the defense of desperate cases.

7. Building of Legal Advice Departments as already established in New York and Michigan. These have shown good results in the developments of the campaign, in making known the

organization to large masses and dramatizing the campaign through the investigation of deportation cases, through giving legal advice to alien workers on different problems (citizen papers, legal stand in this country, etc.).

8. Organizationally, the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born must not become a rigid organization but continue to base itself on affiliation. The efforts of the District and City Committees, especially now during the renewal of the campaign, must concentrate on reaching the masses of new organizations. Certainly, if the campaign is properly conducted these masses will achieve the affiliation of the organizations to the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born, will create the basis for the development of the struggle of the masses against the fascist and social-fascist leadership in many mass organizations.

In the organizational measures elaborated by the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born, it is already established that the District and City Committees are to appoint special small committees whose task it is to visit and bring the campaign into the hundreds of mass organizations that were never reached before.

9. The District and City Councils for the Protection of the Foreign Born from now on, under guidance of the Party fractions, must react quicker in cases of deportations, discriminations, etc.—in calling of mass meetings and demonstrations before the immigration authorities, before the places of work where cases of discrimination occur.

Most attention in these cases must be given to drawing into protests American workers, Negro and white, and especially the youth—the new generation of the foreign-born workers which must be drawn into the struggle for the protection of their parents, in this manner giving to the demonstration a real character of united front against the offensive of the capitalist class.

The Campaign Must Be Discussed!

The entire Party must be made conscious of the importance of the campaign through discussion; functionaries' meetings on district scale and discussion in the units must be arranged, at which not only the importance of the campaign is to be taken up, but also the organizational measures must be brought into the forefront—how the struggle is to be conducted and developed, also the problem of the millions of foreign-born workers (employed in all kinds of industries) who have to be drawn over to our cause.

The fact that the federal government, the states and cities are dealing with these problems, the fact that a new offensive against the foreign-born workers is on its way, show us that this problem does exist and that it is one of the most important problems that the Party must face.

In drawing large masses of foreign-born workers into this campaign, we must contrast the situation in the United States with that in the Soviet Union. Here, in the most powerful imperialist country, in the country of "prosperity and democracy," the workers suffer mass unemployment, starvation, terror against the foreign born and against the Negroes, discrimination on all sides and a constant lowering of the living standards.

In the Soviet Union, not only has unemployment been abolished and the standard of living continuously raised, but all forms of discrimination have been abolished. The workers and farmers rule the country—they are building a new society from which exploiters are disappearing completely.

Not only must we bring before the workers the immediate war danger, the feverish preparation by the imperialists to attack the Soviet Union; but we must show them that it is in this imperialist country, the country of bourgeois democracy which means liberty only for the capitalists to oppress the working class and squeeze out higher profits, that the working class, foreign born and Negro and American, will be free from capitalist oppression only by following the example of their Russian brothers in establishing a workers' and farmers' government, a real democracy, real freedom for the majority from the exploitation of the few. Only in this way can the unemployment, discrimination, lynchings, deportations, etc., be abolished forever and a new society—a Socialist society—be established.