

The Importance of the Last Party Plenum

By F. BROWN.

THE recent Plenum of our Party differentiated itself from the Plenums of the past, not only by the concrete problems that were on the agenda, but also in the character of the discussion and the methods of work that were discussed. It is precisely this characteristic that gave this Plenum its unusual importance. In regard to the practical program for the concretization of the Party's work this Plenum marked a turning point.

The Plenum approached directly the immediate tasks of the Party, pointed out the most important, practical, concrete organizational problems. On the basis of the experiences gained since the Seventh National Convention, analyzed our weaknesses and pointed out the importance of work that must be applied in order to strengthen the Party Organization and put the Party into the leadership of the daily struggles of the working class. The analysis of the economic and political situation, and the political line of the Party which stressed the necessity of turning to the masses, concentrating in the shops, leading the everyday struggles of the working class on the basis of concrete immediate demands, were already laid down at the last convention. The development of the objective situation since the convention, shows clearly the correctness of the analysis of the Party.

In this situation, a repetition of the political analysis made at the Plenum, would be only a loss of precious time. The situation shows us clearly that our task is to strengthen our efforts in the line of leading the daily struggles of the working class, of winning the great masses of workers to the revolutionary movement. It is in this respect, on the basis of the experiences since the convention, that our work must become more concrete, that we must double our efforts in concentrating our activity in the shops, factories, mines and mills, applying vigorously the new methods of work that were already discussed in part at the Cleveland and New York conferences, which were in harmony with the line of the ECCI, and wherever applied in a correct manner, gave good results, as proven especially in the election campaign.

Comrade Kuusinen, speaking about our problems, stated very clearly the fundamental problem of our Party when he said, "In America, we have now a very peculiar phenomenon, so to say—an irreproachable Communist Party, a small Communist Party, but one very well prepared for battle. On the other hand, we have great masses also ready for battle, but the two factors have apparently not found each other. The Communist leadership is ready for battle, the masses are there, but the chemical union is not yet here." This is exactly the fundamental problem the Plenum discussed. ~~On this night we must discuss the fundamental problems, such as~~

the necessity of building the revolutionary unions, of leading the unemployed, the development of the Negro movement, the building of the Daily Worker into a mass organizer of the working class, etc.

The Plenum also gave the line to be followed in the discussion in the District Plenums, in the lower units of the Party. No general discussion, no agitation amongst ourselves, no flowery speeches, phrases, but concrete discussion, severe self-criticism of the mistakes in applying the Party line, of the organizational weaknesses on a district, on a unit scale, pointing out on the basis of the resolutions, how to improve the situation in the concrete sphere of activity of the districts, sections, and units. Not the general discussion of the past, repetition of the Plenum discussion, but a critical discussion of the situation in the units, in the light of the resolutions of the Plenum, with the aim of discovering the weaknesses, the mistakes of the recent past, and taking the necessary measures of correction, concretizing the tasks of the units, especially in regard to the major task before the Party, the building of shop committees of the revolutionary unions, rooting ourselves in the masses of workers in the shops and factories. The resolutions of the Plenum must be discussed in a practical manner, based on the concrete experiences of the districts, as applied to the

It is only on this basis, on the basis of self-district, section, and unit, and units tasks, criticism, in the correctness of our methods of work in the concrete situation in the districts, that the district committees, the section committees, union bureaus, every member of the Party, will become thoroughly conscious of the necessity of doubling our efforts in the line of strengthening the whole apparatus, in the line of becoming the real leader of the everyday struggles of the working class. It is on this line, that the district committees will prepare the monthly plans of work, will learn to check up on all activities, so that the Party will succeed in bringing about the chemical union of which Comrade Kuusinen spoke, and assume its logical position as the leader of the entire working class.

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