

Role of Shop Nucleus and Communist Fraction

IN this article I want to clarify some confusion existing among many Party members, especially members of the shop nuclei, who are at the same time members of the Communist fractions in the revolutionary unions, and in other unions. There are many of these comrades and others as well, who ask: **Why shall we duplicate our work** of being at one and the same time, the Communist nucleus in factory so and so, and the Communist fraction in the union, embracing the workers in total or part of the same factory?

This question shows immediately that there is no clarity about the role of the Party nucleus and the role of the fraction regardless of which union is involved, revolutionary or reformist.

To make it clear let us take an example. Let us take for granted there is a factory "A", that employs 2,000 workers. Out of the 2,000, there are 1,200 workers organized in the Industrial Union affiliated with the T.U.U.L. In the nearby factory B with 3,000 employed workers, 2,000 are organized in the A. F. of L. In both factories there is a factory nucleus. In both there is a Communist fraction. **Now what is the basic task of the nuclei in the two factories, and what is the basic task of the fractions in the two different unions?**

Tasks of Nucleus

In order to make this problem clear, we must understand that the nuclei in Factory A and B are the Party in these factories, and as such their primary task is to bring forward the Party program to the workers, win the best of them to the nuclei, take the lead in the struggle of the workers and champion their grievances in the name of the Party. It is the task of the nuclei, as the Party, to show to the workers that their struggles, regardless whether of economic nature or for better sanitary conditions, etc., are class struggles in so far as these struggles are between the workers who sell to the bosses their labor power, and the bosses who are the owners of the means of production, who are exploiting them to get higher profits and at the same time, together with the other bosses, are the rulers of the country, and are using the government and its instruments to protect their profits. etc. The nuclei in factory A and B have the task of winning the best elements of the workers to the Party, to issue a shop paper that will bring the Party position before the workers, concerning the conditions in the shop, and the struggles going on, connecting this with the ultimate aim of the working

class. The nuclei at the same time must appeal to the workers to organize, help them to organize, but while in Factory A, the nucleus will support the revolutionary union, will do its utmost to build it, in Factory B, the nucleus will bring before the workers the Party position on the A. F. of L., will urge the workers to strengthen the organization, but at the same time will lead the fraction in the building of an opposition inside the union, to fight the bureaucrats who compromise with the bosses and sell the workers out, to develop struggles over the head of the bureaucrats, will strive to have at the head of the union, a rank and file leadership that will fight the bosses, in the interests of the workers and that will transform the union from a reformist one into a militant one, based on class struggle.

Tasks of Fraction

Now we come to the other point to be clarified. In both unions there is a Communist fraction. Physically the members of the fraction are identified with the members of the nuclei. The nature and task of the fraction, however, are different ones.

While the nuclei are the Party in factory A and B, the fraction is the group of comrades inside the revolutionary union in factory A, and the group of comrades in the reformist union in factory B. Now the task of the fraction in the revolutionary union is to give leadership to the union, to be the guardian of its problems, activate the union, give guidance in formulating demands, mobilize the union to build itself, to conduct struggles in the interest of the workers, see to it that the union participates in the various campaigns of the revolutionary movement, clarify the membership on the program of their union as an organization of class struggle, etc., so that their personal and collective example shows that they are the best and most sincere fighters of the union and in this manner, they will draw the best elements of the union into the Party, and into the fraction, thus strengthening not only the Party in the unions (fractions) but the shop nucleus also, which means the strengthening of the Party in the factory.

In the reformist union, the task of the fraction will be the organization of the best elements, who understand the role of the bureaucrats and the reformist character of the union, into an organized broad rank and file opposition with the aims of ousting the bureaucrats from the union, giving to the union a rank and file leadership able to transform the union from a reformist one to an organization of class struggle.

Relation Between Nucleus and Fraction

We now come to another aspect of the problem—to the relation between nuclei and fractions.

In stating that the shop nuclei are the Party in factories A and B, it is evident that the nuclei must discuss all problems concerning the workers in the factories, work out the policy to be pursued by the nuclei themselves, and also by the fractions in the unions. The nuclei lead all activities of the Party members in the factories including the activities of the fractions in the unions.

This means that the nuclei must discuss the problems of the unions, discuss the policy and activities of the fractions in so far as this is one of the phases of Party work, under the direct guidance of the Party (shop nuclei in both factories).

The leading fractions in the unions in both factories composed of the Party members in the executive committees of the unions, while being in touch and co-ordinating their work with the higher fraction of the union (if the union also exists in other factories) or with the Communist fraction in the T.U.U.C., or in the case of the Union in factory B, with the leading fraction in the opposition of the respective union in the A. F. of L., will at the same time report about their activities and the activities of the fractions as a whole to the nuclei, discuss the problems pertaining to the union so that the nuclei will be able to make decisions and give guidance along the program of the Party in the factory.

Every Party member in factory A and B belongs to the fractions in their respective unions, and will meet when the fractions are called, before the general membership meetings of the union, to take up the problems of the fractions, to divide the work among the members along the program of work, previously discussed and approved by the leading fractions and by the nuclei. To these fraction meetings should be invited reliable workers who are sympathetic with and support the program of the C. P.

There are many more points that should be elucidated, as for example, the tasks of the nucleus and fractions in the event that in a nearby factory C, there should be two unions in existence, in which case the nucleus will lead the activities of both fractions which have different tasks corresponding to the character of the two unions, as we already explained in the first example.

The Party Organizer will clarify this question on the basis of concrete examples. This short article is an introduction to the subject in order to clarify the most important phase of the question and to help the comrades establish the correct relation between the shop nuclei and fractions and, guided by this line, to find in practice the solution to other phases of this problem.

— F. B.