

Planned Activity, Mass Work Is Road to Build the Party

Open Letter Is Vigorous Step Forward Along Bolshevik Method of Concentration

By F. BROWN

The Open Letter emphasized the problem of planned work and control tasks. This is one of the keys to the solution of the main questions before us. Only through planned work shall we be able to systematize and coordinate our activities, to mobilize all forces in a definite direction for the reaching of our objectives, and to develop persistence in achieving the aims set up in the plans. The control tasks flowing out of our plans will serve as the systematic check-up on results and will control every step in the direction of the concretization of the plan.

Here again we can take an illustration given us by the Bolshevik Party: the tremendous development of the socialist industrialization of the Soviet Union (which does not find comparison in any country in the history of the world) is the result of planned work. A plan of work, Bolshevik determination and continuous check-up brought the accomplishment of the Five-Year Plan in four years. Was the method of planning new to the Bolsheviks in 1928, when the foundation of the Plan was laid? It was not. It was through planned work that the Bolshevik Party throughout all its history went from victory to victory, was able in certain periods to retreat with small losses and coordinate its forces for new advances, was able to smash its enemies, consolidating the revolution.

The Bolshevik Party, under the leadership of Lenin and later under the leadership of his best disciple, Stalin, at its conventions and plenums reviewed the results of past work and laid new plans and the control tasks for the future activities.

A Definite Goal

While deciding upon the new plans and tasks, the Party was at the same time orientating the masses of the Soviet Union toward the same goal, toward their specific tasks. Holding the steering wheel firmly in its hands in the direction of the goal, all the transmission belts were put into motion—Party apparatus, government apparatus, Soviets, trade unions, co-operatives and other mass organizations, the press and literature—as formidable agitational instruments to move strongly forward on the road of the plan, to carry it into practice. Once on the way, the control tasks serve to check up the results step by step, to discover the weaknesses, to get the necessary readjustments, to take measures for overcoming the obstacles.

All energies are concentrated in the common effort. The carrying out of the plan with its multiple phases is a collective undertaking. Bolshevik self-criticism is not a simple critique of weakness, but the Bolshevik analytic method of discovering weaknesses and pointing out simultaneously the measures for overcoming them, the determination, the will to do it, the method of self-correction with the aim of strengthening their consciousness of the tasks to be performed.

Did we follow the Bolshevik example of planning, of concentrating our energies on the tasks flowing out of the plans? Are we taking the steps necessary to raise the understanding of the whole Party to the significance of the plan, to the tasks elaborated at our conventions and plenums?

No Check Up

It was not because the plans were wrong, the objectives impossible to be reached. Our major weakness of the past lay in the fact that our conventions and plenums were not followed up, that the Party was not mobilized and made conscious of the plans, of the next tasks, that no check-up was made, no control exercised. It amounted to planning for planning's sake, not for fulfillment.

It is enough to go over the Party

press in the periods of conventions, plenums and in the period immediately following them. The plenums are recorded, the resolutions printed. But there is not the effort of raising an intense discussion on the decisions that should have stirred and orientated the whole Party on the line laid down, that should have moved the Party to act.

We can state that in this respect the extraordinary conference of July, 1933, and the Open Letter to the Party, is a vigorous step forward along the Bolshevik method of planning and concentration. Today the Open Letter does not remain the property only of leading committees. It is reaching the base of the Party, is starting to move the Party forward.

Every district and section today is working out its plan of work on the basis of the Open Letter. The immediate important task of the moment is to concentrate the plan in practice, to check on every step, always having the main tasks before us. The next plenum will have to check up the total results, discover the weaknesses and mobilize the Party for the next steps.

Shop Nuclei—Central Point

Today more than every we must solve the fundamental political and organizational problem of the Party, of the Bolshevikization process, the reorganization of our Party on the basis of shop nuclei. This problem also has been discussed for years and there are libraries that contain the experiences on this question—not only on an international scale but also dealing with this country.

In this respect we furthermore failed to learn from the experiences of the Ford nucleus, the Sparrows Point nucleus, the McKeesport Tin Plate, the Westinghouse nucleus, the experiences of the mining nuclei, the Chicago stockyard nucleus, etc. etc. And because of this we were not persistent in reorganizing the Party on the basis of the shop nuclei.

Only through extending the network of our shop nuclei, following the method of concentration, will we succeed in anchoring the Party in hundreds of shops and mines in the basic industries.

Building Party.

Today there are thousands of American workers willing to join our ranks, that look to our Party as the champion in the struggle for the improvement of the conditions of the working class and for the final liberation of the proletariat. These workers enter the Party with enthusiasm, are the most active, and immediately recruit new members. After a while, however, these elements to a great extent become discouraged. From inside the Party looks differently to them than it appeared from without.

What we need is a ruthless struggle against the old traditions and methods that in practice are submerging the new ones, continuous reviewing, improving of new experiences, and a systematic check-up that shall prevent the old and bad practices from getting the upper hand again.

Concentration work does not mean only directing of our energies in certain strategic places, but also concentration in all the phases of work that are part and parcel of the main problems before us—the building of the Party into a mass proletarian party.