

Improve the Fraction Work In the Mass Organizations

IMMEDIATELY after the Extraordinary Party Conference the Language Buros of the C. C. accepted the Open Letter with enthusiasm, discussed, and with practically no exceptions began to draw up plans of work in their particular sphere of activity.

To better enlighten the comrades in the key positions in the various mass organizations (fraternal, cultural, etc.) some of the buros called special fraction conferences at which the programs of work were discussed in the light of the Open Letter. The past activities were reviewed, the weaknesses discovered, and the new tasks determined.

Already at this conference, some of the buros could register some results on the concretization of the program, and analyze the experiences in their first steps of concentration (Yugoslavian, Greek, Armenian, Hungarian and other conferences). Some of these experiences were made known in the Party Life Column of the **Daily Worker**, for the purpose of stimulating the fractions in their activities

and making these experiences available to other fractions of language mass organizations.

In all discussions the comrades active in the mass organizations spoke without exception about the necessity of involving their organization in the daily struggle, of making the organizations instruments for reaching the workers of the basic industries, for building the unions, etc.

Hundreds, thousands of members of the language mass organizations not only accepted the Open Letter with enthusiasm, but were eager to concretize the plans of work, eager to be guided in the concentration work, and eager to become a factor for the penetration among the masses.

Must Follow Up Control Tasks

After a month, after a good start, the Yugoslavian Buro of the C. C. is sounding the alarm, finding out that many of the fractions are either inactive, or are showing open opportunism and sectarian tendencies as in the case of Farrell, Pa., where the Party members have practically divorced themselves from the Yugoslavian workers who constitute a large portion of the steel workers in Farrell, or as in other places, are functioning very badly.

Such a situation, however, is not limited to the Yugoslavian field. We find, if not the same, a similar situation in other language fields. We must ask ourselves: how is it possible that after such a good beginning, after the special fraction conferences and tours, after a campaign of enlightenment in the language press, we did not move forward as we expected? Is it because the programs were wrong, because they were not based on the Open Letter? No. Many of the programs and especially the one worked out by the Yugoslavian Buro were good, basically correct, and because of this some of them were published in the **Daily Worker** as examples to be followed.

The first reason for the weak results is to be found in the failure to follow up and control the tasks, the failure to lead and help the fractions in their activities. The second reason is that while the programs were good, were discussed and the comrades from below were urged to work out their tasks accordingly, very little or no effort was made to simultaneously strengthen the fractions ideologically and organizationally. In many instances the District Committees, the Section Committees failed to check up on the activities of the fractions, especially in those districts where there is no continuity in the work of the language mass organizations or where these were simply abolished or disappeared.

It is because of lack of guidance, because of the fact that especially the new Party members are not clear on the

task of the fractions that some of the good results completely disappeared.

This was the case of the Greek clubs in Baltimore and Philadelphia which, after having grown into real mass organizations, are today reduced to merely paper organizations because of lack of guidance, of misunderstanding of the relationship between the Party and the mass organizations, and especially because of lack of enlightenment of the nature and tasks of the fractions. And these are not isolated cases.

How to Improve Activities

What must be done to remedy this situation, to improve the activities of the fractions in the language mass organizations as a prerequisite for the concretization of the program of work?

1. Through the language press, through the Buros and the comrades in charge of guiding the fractions on a district and section scale, we must enlighten the comrades on the nature and tasks of the fractions.

2. Where the District language commissions are in existence they must work hand in hand with the Org. Commission, must go down and examine how the fractions are functioning, assist them, and not limit themselves to taking up the current problems with the language bureaus. Where there are no language commissions in existence they must be formed, or at least steps must be taken to put one of the members of the Org. Commission in charge of this important work.

3. The language commissions in connection with the Org. Department must determine how many and who of the comrades of the mass organizations are to compose the group of actives, having as their major Party task the work in the mass organizations.

The same process shall take place on a section scale, in regard to the locals and neighborhood organizations. While the fraction consists of all Party members in a given organization, the Party must make a distinction between those few comrades who are in the leadership—the real active ones—and those who are merely fraction members and need not be continuously occupied with work in their mass organizations. This procedure will prevent so many Party members in mass organizations from escaping the activities to which they are assigned by the units by giving the excuse that they are busy in the mass organizations.

4. The units from now on must demand a report from time to time from those comrades active in the mass organizations and also check up on their activities.

5. The language press, the buros and fractions must be mobilized to energetically conduct the recruiting drive among the sympathetic elements in the language mass organizations, among whom there are hundreds who are enthusiastically willing to follow the Party line, and make powerful instruments of the existing mass organizations for the reaching of the masses in the factories. —F. BROWN
