

A Reminder On the Thaelmann Campaign

By F. BROWN

THE Thaelmann Liberation Campaign is on its way: workers delegations from unions, factories, docks, mutual-aid and cultural organizations are daily on their way to the German Consulate to present the protests of the masses against the mistreatment and mishandling by the fascist jailers of Comrade Thaelmann, of leaders of the German Communist Party, of six million German workers. In the name of increasing thousands, the delegations are asking the release of Comrade Thaelmann and all other political prisoners suffering in the fascist jails and concentration camps. The picket lines are continuously being held in front of the Consulate. The cry of the American workers: **Free Thaelmann! Free the Political Prisoners!** is being raised higher and higher.

The campaign is well on its way, but we cannot be satisfied. We must raise it to a higher level, drawing in hundreds of thousands—millions. It can be done! It must be done! With little effort we can raise the Thaelmann issue before the American toilers if we understand how to connect this campaign with all the activities of the Party, with the struggles led by the Party. There must not be a mass meeting, a picket line, a strike, a demonstration, where the Communists present shall not raise the question of the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann through speeches, resolutions, electing delegations to the German Consulates. It is the task of

every Party member to bring before his fellow workers in the shops and in the mass organizations, the situation in Germany under the fascist regime, to bring forward the role of the Communist Party of Germany and the figure of Comrade Thaelmann, the old revolutionist who devoted all his life to the cause of the German working class, starting at the age of seventeen to organize his fellow longshoremen in his native city, Hamburg.

Campaign Must Be Means of Strengthening Party

This campaign, while having as its objective the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann, one of the outstanding leaders of the Communist International, of the world proletariat, must have, at the same time as its objective, the strengthening of our Party, the furthering of all activities of the Communists among the masses. This activity must be carried on especially among the longshoremen, the marine workers, among the employed in the basic industries where we concentrate, mobilizing the masses in the Thaelmann Liberation Campaign and connecting this campaign with the every day struggles of the workers, raising their class-consciousness and drawing the best elements into our ranks.

This campaign, like all our campaign, must have as its main objective, the reaching of new masses and in this way building up the Party, strengthening its position in the factories, in the unions, in the mass organizations and in the neighborhoods.

Many times, while conducting a campaign, we forget that our aim is not only to reach the specific objective of the campaign, but to build the Party and to strengthen its position among the masses. In the Thaelmann campaign as in all campaigns, this is part of our daily activity and is connected with the development of the class struggle, with raising the consciousness of the masses and leading them forward to newer and higher struggles.

Those workers who are actively participating in the Thaelmann campaign, who are fighting for the liberation of one of the best leaders of the world Communist Party, who are fighting against German fascism, who are participating in the struggle against the growing fascization in the United States, who understand the role that the Communist Party of Germany plays in the struggle against fascism, against capitalism, are elements that must swell our ranks, that will bring into our movement and influence hundreds and hundreds of their fellow workers.

Build the Party by building the Thaelmann campaign. Connecting it with the daily struggles means developing the

campaign, reaching new masses, raising higher and higher the protest in the factories, in the mills, on the docks and ships. It means enlarging the struggle for the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann and all the victims of German fascism. It means enlarging and strengthening the struggle against our own bourgeoisie, against the capitalist enemies of the American workers at home, which day by day, in the grip of the crisis, are more and more trying to save their profits, shoving the burdens of the crisis on the shoulders of the working class and increasing reaction at the same time by applying fascist methods of oppression against the working class.

Task of the Campaign

Fighting for the liberation of Thaelmann, fighting against German fascism means the development of the struggle against fascism at home. Concretely, every member must see to it that the following decisions of the Party shall be carried out.

1. Every organization to form broad committees on the Thaelmann campaign, drawing in new outside forces.
2. Not a local that does not pass Thaelmann resolutions at its meeting.
3. A campaign for signatures with a goal of two million signatures.
4. A collection of funds in connection with the signature campaign.
5. A Thaelmann corner in every office or hall of union or fraternal organizations (having posters, leaflets, petitions for signatures, information, news reports on developments in the Thaelmann case, etc.).
6. Organization of speakers at every meeting of trade unions, mass, fraternal and cultural organizations for ten minute talks, (outline for them to be drafted), to be followed by the immediate elections of delegations to go to the Consulate to protest, the sending of protest telegram to the Embassy, the sending of a protest letters to Chancellor Hitler in Berlin.
7. Special city-wide delegations to Consulates.
8. Permanent picket lines in front of Consulates.
9. Organization of meetings and Thaelmann committees in each city.
10. Publicity committees to be organized to flood newspapers with a constant stream of protest "letters from readers."
11. The issuance of Thaelmann postcards and Thaelmann petitions.

12. Protest cards and letters to be sent to Hitler in Berlin, to the Germany Embassy in Washington.
13. That a telephone blockade of every German Consulate in the Country be established from organizations, from thousands of individual members of all organizations.
14. Chain letter to be started by every member of the Party and the members of all mass organizations we can reach to be sent to Chancellor Hitler, Reichs Kanzlei, Berlin, Germany. At the same time, send requests to five friends to follow suit, and so on.