

# PARTY ORGANIZER

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## Pre-Convention Discussion in the Units

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**T**HE pre-Convention discussion takes place at a time when the revolutionary crisis is ripening, when the whole world is closely approaching a new round of revolutions and wars. Because of the urgent necessity of bringing clarity to the membership on the general Party Line and of raising the Communist consciousness of every Party member as to the tasks of the units and the members, the discussion assumes a special importance. Through this discussion the Party must learn that only through a clarification of the Party line and through a real understanding of the situation in the territories and shops in which the units are functioning will the units be able to work out their program of work and their tasks, and that therefore discussion is necessary at all times and not only before conventions.

If we examine the discussion which takes place in the units, we find that in general it is very poor. In many instances it is mechanical and deals only with mere assignment of tasks. While in some of the units genuine political discussions are held on the main problems which confront the Party in general, as well as on the specific problems of the units, in others there is no discussion at all. There are many Party members and leading comrades in the units and sections who believe that the discussion of the Party line is an abstract thing, and that the unit discussion shall limit itself to the taking up of the tasks which the shop nucleus or street unit must carry out.

This tendency is sometimes exaggerated to the point where the discussions on general problems brought before the units by the Center or by the district committees are postponed for weeks because they are regarded as hampering the activity of the units. Or discussions are carried on mechanically, as for example in a New York unit, where the day after the Austrian revolt broke out, a discussion was held on the Resolution of the 13th Plenum of the ECCI, without one mention of the Austrian situation. The mobilization for the distribution of the *Daily Worker* was confined in this unit to a bureaucratic order for special distribution. The organizer of this same unit made a proposal to her

buro, that in this pre-convention period, discussions be postponed for a period of four weeks in order that the unit might have more time to carry out its work.

### **Discussion Lever by Which Party Will Be Activized**

When we consider that the majority of Party members have been in the Party for less than two years, then we will understand that it is necessary to hold political discussion in the units. Only in this way will we raise the Communist consciousness of the Party members and gain a better understanding of the nature and tasks of the shop nuclei and units. This will help to increase the activity of the Party, to develop within the units an understanding that they are the Party in a given shop and territory and at the same time develop each individual Party member as a leader of the working class.

It is precisely because of the lack of political discussion in the units that activities are hampered, that here and there we encounter resistance in performing some task, or that friction develops between the members.

Discussion is the lever for the activization of the units as such, and of the individual Party members.

### **Party Line Must Be Explained and Applied**

What kind of discussion do we need in the units? Not an abstract discussion on the Party line or on the Party program and its ultimate aims, but a discussion on the basis of an analysis of the situation in the place (shop or territory) where the unit functions as an integral part of the general Party line and Party program. But this is not enough. In view of the fact that so many new members are at all times entering the Party, discussion on the fundamental principles of our Party is necessary in order to help the comrades to understand, not only the general Party line, but the necessity of carrying out the tasks embodied in the Party resolutions. Here we should note that some of the old Party members, instead of being the driving force in the discussion, instead of stimulating it by their example, and in this way establishing a closer unity of the old and new members, resist discussion. Their claim is that discussion of this kind is an old story for them, and they see no reason for repetition. This claim is not valid. If they would help the new members to a better understanding of the fundamental principles of our Party, these older comrades would have an opportunity not to repeat what they already know, but to further develop their own understanding and through this development raise the whole ideological level of the units.

How can we explain that often new Party members be-



come demoralized after a few weeks, and many times drop out of the units? Because of the lack of interest of the unit meetings. Because many times all burdens are shifted to the shoulders of the new and enthusiastic members. The units and especially the unit leaders forget that the new Party members must be developed into Communists and that only with their development will we succeed in keeping them in our ranks and develop them further.

It is not enough to believe that the line of the Party is given through the **Daily Worker** and the other Party organs, and that every Party member shall learn it from the columns of our papers. In many cases we are confronted with the problem that Party members, and sometimes whole units, do not thoroughly understand the problems treated in our press, despite all of our efforts of popularization. These problems can be simplified by verbal explanations in the unit discussions, which will help many of the Party members to understandingly read the Party organs. For this reason the units should institute a regular discussion of the main editorials of the week in the **Daily Worker**, on some of the articles in the **Communist**, **Party Organizer**, etc.

### Discussions Must Be Led

These discussions will not develop spontaneously. They must be led. For this reason the comrades of the Unit Buro, as the political leaders of the unit, must prepare themselves for the discussion. Therefore, it is necessary that in the coming elections the best comrades shall be elected to the unit buros. This will partially solve this problem. But only **partially**, because the solution of the problem of how to develop discussion in the units and raise it to a higher level requires the solution of another phase of this problem: namely, the development of the unit leadership to real political leadership.

The pre-convention discussion in the units will achieve its aim of clarifying the Party line and the tasks with which the Party is now confronted only if the units in their discussion will succeed in understanding the necessity of fighting for the Party line. This does not mean to discuss the Party resolution and the tasks before the Party in an abstract manner, but to apply the Party line in the solution of the specific problems of the units in their shops and territories.

What do we mean by the Party line? Is it an abstract thing? The Party line means the way in which the Party as the vanguard of the working class carries on its work in the shops and among the unemployed; the Party program for work among the Negro masses; the approach of the Party to the united front; how we work in the A. F. of

L.; the work of the revolutionary unions, etc. It is this understanding which we must bring to our members in this pre-Convention discussion. And in the achievement of this understanding, the units will realize that political discussion, at all times, is the means of clarifying our tasks and the lever by which the activity of each individual Party member will be developed.

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