

# Prospective Members Put Questions to C. P.

Communist Party Asks Some Activity But Does Not Demand All of a Worker's Time—Attempt Constantly Made on Individual Adjustments

By F. Brown

We have received hundreds of replies in answer to a recent editorial in the Daily Worker in which we asked those workers who considered themselves Communists why they have not joined the Communist Party. Space does not permit us to answer all of the letters, or all the questions that were raised. We are answering those objections which were raised by most of the workers.

At the outset we want to state that most of the letters came from sincere workers and professionals who follow the Party closely. Most of them, however, are ex-Party members, which indirectly indicates the reasons for their having left the Party. Thus, we have the opportunity of answering the reasons given by ex-Party members, as well as those who are very close to us, but who never joined the Party.

Briefly, the following are the main reasons given for not joining the Party, or for not having remained in the Party. Practically all of the writers state: "Too many evenings are demanded for the Party"—"No consideration is given for family or personal needs"—"The Party does not allow comrades who are interested in general cultural problems to devote their time to particular study." Many comrades express their willingness to give a certain amount of time to activity for the Party, but are unable to give more than this minimum, because of trade or family condition. Still others claim to agree with the principles of the Party, but state that they do not join because of the bad impression they have of some of the Party members they know. They have been antagonized by Party members who in discussions are intolerant against those who disagree with their opinions. A number of writers express their willingness to join the Party, but claim not to be in our ranks because they have never been approached. These comrades suggest that the readers of the Daily Worker, for example, should be visited for the purpose of recruiting them into the Party. Some of the other writers agree fully with the program and activities of the Party but feel that by joining the Party their jobs would be jeopardized.

## What the Party Asks

Many of these questions have been answered many times in the columns of the Party press. Those of the writers who follow the Daily Worker know that in the last few years the Party has shown its determination to readjust its organizational forms for the purpose of making the Party more efficient and capable of reaching new masses, and also, for the purpose of raising the political level of the individual Party members, and lessening the burdens by dividing their activities and so preventing too many inner meetings, the duplication of activities, etc.

There is nothing in our program or constitution which states that a member of our Party must give all of his or her time (day or night) to Party work. All that the Party demands is that every member shall participate in some activity on the basis of his ability. On this point we must say that especially in New York a few comrades have propagated the idea that the Party demands all of their time, and have thus created a false impression.

## Division of Activity

In some units there are comrades who in their eagerness to see the Party grow, give most of their

time to the Party. This shows a splendid revolutionary spirit on their part which must be praised. The Party is highly appreciative of the activities of these hundreds of members who constitute the most active section of the Party membership. These same comrades forget that not all the Party members are able to devote the same amount of time to Party work. They must learn to take into consideration the activities of the other comrades in other fields of work, their family needs, and sometimes also their physical possibilities and stage of development. We are fully aware of such weaknesses in some of the units. But we are more than sure, with the organizational readjustments that we are being carried through, that we will be able to solve the problem of the division of activities, of the too many inner meetings, of the duplication of work, etc., thus preventing new members from leaving the Party because of their inability to devote all their free time to Party activities.

There is nothing in our program or constitution which prevents Party members from studying, from being interested in science or other cultural phases of work. On the contrary, we Communists, who have the task of leading the masses, must be well versed in all problems that are of interest to the masses. Look at our great leaders, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Dimitroff and hundreds of others who even the bourgeoisie acknowledges as outstanding figures versed in universal knowledge. In the United States, Communists, like Earl Browder, the general secretary of our Party, have shown in their writings, their vast knowledge of scientific and cultural problems, from a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint, which are of interest to the American masses.

## Approach to Party

In answering one of the writers who states that he was kept back because some of his associates who are Party members "think, eat and sleep" Communism. We say very frankly, that we do not consider him a sincere sympathizer, but a person who has contempt for the Party. A good sympathizer admires the sincerity and enthusiasm and activity expressed by Party members at every opportunity; he does not criticize them. Comrades who have such qualities prove that they are deeply concerned with the solution of all problems of the masses, and take every opportunity to convince other workers of this need.

The intolerance shown by some of our Party members in their discussions with workers and sharp expressions used against those who disagree with their opinions are not characteristic of the whole Party. There are comrades who sometimes are not patient, yet the Party as a whole tries to convince the workers of the correctness of the work of the Party, and of its activities. It is wrong to judge the Party as a whole merely on the basis of Party members expressing their individual opinions, or sometimes giving their individual and wrong interpretations of the Party position on cer-

# Scab Agencies Block Ending Of Mill Strike

Textile Chief Denounces Spy System at Two Eastern Plants

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 28.—Industrial spy agencies are operating to prevent settlement of strikes now going on in New England textile mills, charged Horace A. Riviere, vice-president of the United Textile Workers.

Riviere mentioned particularly the strikes in the Paul-Whitlin Co. at Northbridge, Mass., and the Lawton Co. mills at Plainfield, Conn., as being mainly continued by the fact that the companies had turned over the handling of their fight against the unions to detective agencies.

In both these strikes individuals using various names, supposedly speaking for the management of the companies owning the mills, have issued a string of slander and abuse of the strikers, and seek continually to raise questions not connected with the strike, and to create such friction that settlement becomes difficult.

In both strikes, Riviere pointed out, the inflammatory material given out to the press and in leaflets, is "alike, almost word for word."

tain issues. Our aim is not to separate ourselves from the masses, but on the contrary to weld ourselves more closely to them. There is still some sectarianism. Some of our comrades still speak to the workers from above, sometimes in a professional tone, using expressions that are not understood by the bulk of the workers. In this respect, however, the Party is making every effort to correct and change the approach of Party members to their fellow workers.

There are sympathizers who would like to join the Party but stay out because of the peculiarity of their trade (for example, small shopkeepers). There are some who work very late and who don't join because of fear of criticism in the units. Our opinion is that their place is in the ranks of the Party. The units will have to take into consideration their problems and the possibilities of their work, and assign certain activities to them which will not be too burdensome.

## Workers in Key Industries

The suggestion to utilize the list of Daily Worker readers is a good one. We agree with the comrades that many of the Daily Worker readers are potential Communists. This suggestion will certainly be taken into consideration.

In conclusion, we think that the doors of the Party shall be open to those persons who sincerely would like to join us but are afraid of jeopardizing their jobs. In our Party there are hundreds of comrades who work in places where being known as a Communist would result in their being fired. Yet these comrades are able to bring the Party before the workers without exposing themselves individually. The Party considers the Communists who are employed in important industries and enterprises more valuable inside a shop than outside. Therefore, the Party takes necessary precautions by organizing the Communists inside factory, mills, mines, enterprises, into shop nuclei, and other forms. Also in this respect the Party is determined to improve the actual organizational forms for the purpose of both protecting the Comrades, and at the same time of improving their activities, with the aim of conquering the most guarded fortresses of the ruling class.