

Strengthening the Farmer-Labor Campaign in the Lower Units

By F. B.

WHEREVER the necessity for a Farmer-Labor Party is raised among workers, farmers, and professionals, it receives the most enthusiastic response. This is evident not only by the hundreds of resolutions passed in various locals of the American Federation of Labor, in mass organizations, but by the response of masses who hail the Labor Party at mass meetings, by conversations in factories, by conversations with workers in their homes.

Wherever we Communists raise the necessity for a Farmer-Labor Party our proposals are accepted with enthusiasm even by those strata and individuals who up to now had prejudices against our Party, under the influence

of the poison spread by the yellow press. In reviewing the campaign we can state that our Party has become a real driving force not only in propagandizing the Farmer-Labor Party, but in actually activizing those forces outside of our ranks who are on record in favor of the Farmer-Labor Party.

At this point, however, we must state that most of the activities up till now have been carried out mainly by the most active comrades in the trade unions and mass organizations. The lower organizations, the individual Party members, the units, shop nuclei, while being conscious of the importance of the Farmer-Labor Party, of its need for the American toiling masses, while agreeing one hundred per cent with the line of the Party, still do not see **exactly what their concrete tasks are, how to become factors for the mobilization of the masses of the organized and unorganized workers.**

In the Party press, as well as the sympathetic press, beginning with the **Daily Worker**, down to shop papers, we have at our disposal a powerful instrument to reach the broadest masses in the factories, trade unions, mass organizations, and the residential territories. **The immediate task is to strengthen the campaign for the Farmer-Labor Party, to become active in utilizing this instrument to the maximum.**

Concretely, this means the widest mobilization of the press from the **Daily Worker** to the shop papers. Every unit or fraction in the trade unions, every fraction and individual Party member in mass organizations, should begin special issues of their existing papers, new papers, special leaflets, agitating for a Labor Party among the masses, connecting the immediate problems of the masses in the factories, unions, residential territories, with the broad program of the new Party of the American toiling people. Here is a means by which to speak to millions. Let us utilize it.

Today, over 10,000 Party members are inside the American Federation of Labor and other unions. In brief, thousands of Communists connected with millions of organized workers, together with the progressive elements amounting to tens of thousands, constitute a tremendous power, which, correctly orientated on how to bring before their fellow workers the issue of the Farmer-Labor Party, can bring about great results. The fact that wherever our comrades are active, the unions endorsed the Farmer-Labor Party, shows the big possibilities.

The problem is to pass from the activity of a few to the **activation of all.** It is not enough that our comrades in the unions and the progressive elements are bringing the Farmer-Labor Party issue on the floor. In places of work, in the unions, **our comrades must become real agitators—**

the progressive forces must become acquainted with all the splendid arguments given in Gorman's pamphlet, all the arguments given by the Party. **Special gatherings should be arranged of trade unionists**, to discuss with them the necessity of working inside the unions for the purpose of getting not only endorsement of the Farmer-Labor Party, but to get the unions themselves to become active in the campaign—active by appealing to other unions, by issuing its own **agitational and propaganda material**. Then not only the Communists and progressives inside the unions will speak to the masses, but the campaign for a Farmer-Labor Party will become the real campaign of organized labor, of the unions themselves.

The same line should be followed in all mass organizations, especially in Negro mass organizations, and in the organizations of the foreign born workers.

In the shops, every shop nucleus should be able to arrange special meetings with the most trusted workers in the shops, with those workers who, while not agreeing completely with our program, yet are known as honest workers who stand for labor, for industrial unionism, against fascism, etc., and discuss with them the methods of how to spread the idea for a Farmer-Labor Party among their fellow workers; to arrange small gatherings in their homes, to advertise the meetings called by those forces who are sponsoring the Farmer-Labor Party, to discuss with the non-Party people the local problems and see which issues should be included in the local platform of a Farmer-Labor Party.

One of the most important problems before the branches and territorial units is to get the existing mass organizations in the territory to come out in support of the Farmer-Labor Party. In certain proletarian territories where unions and all sorts of mass organizations have their headquarters, it should not be difficult to involve some of these organizations to take the initiative for the building of a Sponsoring Committee for the Farmer-Labor Party; appealing to these organizations, visiting them, discussing with them not only the general program of the Farmer-Labor Party, but specifically the issues that are of the greatest interest to the masses in the neighborhood.

In small towns those unions and mass organizations which went on record should constitute immediately a Sponsoring Committee for the purpose of involving other mass organizations, and also popular gatherings in which both employed and unemployed workers, women and the youth of the town should bring forward their problems, their needs, get their reaction to the Farmer-Labor Party, make them feel that

they are also placing their cornerstone towards the building of the new party of the exploited.

What is needed to give momentum to the campaign, to involve masses in actively participating in building the new Party, is more boldly to correct and defeat the idea still existing in the minds of even some Party members and other class-conscious workers that the masses are not yet ready to break away from the old two parties, are not ripe to build their own broad party, embracing workers, farmers, professionals, etc. We must be ready to utilize all possibilities that are at our disposal to make people think and not only discuss the Farmer-Labor Party, but do more—**get them active in building it.**
