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Election Rallies Are Recruiting Grounds

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THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION given our presidential candidates, Comrades Browder and Ford, at packed meetings, the enthusiastic acceptance of our election platform by ever new masses, again proves the great possibilities for building our Party into a mass Party, of making the recruiting drive decided by the Ninth Convention part and parcel of the election campaign.

Up until now, however, these possibilities have not been fully utilized. No real efforts have been made to make the election rallies recruiting grounds. This is mainly due to the fact that the recruiting drive has not yet been properly organized, that we haven't worked out plans to the most minute details.

At the Ninth Convention of our Party we stated that a Party of 50,000 adult and young members is a strong basis upon which we can further build the Party.

What Has to Be Done?

1. In our Party we have 600 shop nuclei with over 5,000 members. Besides this, we have over 7,000 members working in industries, a large majority of them in the unions. The aim of these forces in the industries should be to double their membership. To achieve such an aim, it is necessary that every shop nucleus and industrial unit must immediately not only discuss the drive, but concretely decide what each individual Party member shall do to approach their fellow workers and the methods to be utilized in the drive. This collective discussion can help the individual members in their recruiting activities.

Every unit meeting in the month of September, which, by the way, is the anniversary month of the Communist Party, should have on its agenda as the first point—recruiting.

In the factories the election campaign gives us a splendid opportunity to approach the workers through distributing our literature, by calling them to special meetings, etc.

The Section Committees should assign leading comrades to help the shop units during the drive.

2. Special meetings of the Party members active in the trade unions should be called specifically to decide the task of the individual Party members in the unions in regard to recruiting.

Today our forces are known in the unions, are respected, and have many connections with scores of progressive people. It is the task of our comrades to strengthen their contacts, invite the progressive elements who support our program, who work hand and hand with us, and make them understand that their place is in our ranks.

3. At every meeting the branches in the various territories shall also have recruiting on their agenda. Discuss concretely the tasks of the comrades in the neighborhood organizations on how to improve the house-to-house canvassing, how to utilize their open air meetings and the open meetings of the branches for recruiting.

We have in our hands powerful instruments that can help us in reaching workers and winning them for the Party. We have such instruments as the Party election platform, the new 25c edition of Comrade Browder's book *What Is Communism?*, and other pamphlets issued by the Party in this period.

The recruiting drive will be successful only if we understand how to utilize every campaign and every activity for the recruiting of individual members. We must prevent comrades who are active in the election campaign or in the steel drive from forgetting all about the recruiting drive. There must be no meeting during the election campaign whether under the auspices of the units, Section, City or State organizations, no election mass rallies at which the candidates speak, without an appeal for membership. The meetings must be well organized, with the necessary amount of literature, with application cards, with the comrades assigned to distribute the material and solicit new members. All candidates should be impressed that their task in the election campaign is to be Party builders.

The French comrades gave us a splendid example of how to build the Party during the election campaign. It was during the last election campaign in France, through the activities of the candidates, that the Party was built in new towns and was strengthened in others. We can do the same. We can build

the Party in hundreds of new towns where our candidates go to present our platform to the masses.

The decisive question for a successful recruiting drive is the improvement of the organizational apparatus on a state, city and section scale. Thousands of members are lost because of the inefficiency of the organizational apparatus, lack of guidance and checkup on the activities of the units.

It has been some time since we have decided to establish Membership Commissions, the task of which is recruiting, checking on dues payments and attendance. This apparatus is indispensable. Experience already proves that where the membership commissions are functioning we register definite gains. This is not enough. It is necessary that from now on the state and city committees shall have recruiting on the agenda at every meeting where the membership commissions, leading comrades in the sections, trade unions and mass organizations shall be called to report about the developments of the campaign.

In the last recruiting drive a big stimulus was given by the intensive recruiting activities of the leading comrades. In this drive, not only the Section Organizers must be involved in competition, but all the members of the elected Party bodies and the leaders of the various fractions in the trade unions and other mass organizations.

There are thousands and thousands of comrades in responsible positions from Unit Bureaus up. It is by the example of these comrades that we will be able to swing into activity the whole membership of the Party.