

PARTY RECRUITING DRIVE

Enroll Working Women Into the Party

By ANNA DAMON.

THE Address of the Communist International to the Communist Party of the United States and the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Communist International and the Tenth Plenum of the Comintern put very definite tasks before our Party. To put them into effect the October Plenum of the Communist Party of the United States decided on a nation-wide recruiting drive. The success of this drive will enable our Party to carry through the tasks of the third period and will be the best answer to all the enemies of our Party and the Communist International.

The conditions for winning large sections of the working class for the Communist Party of the United States are very opportune. Capitalist rationalization, speed-up, longer hours, lowering of general conditions of the workers, has brought about a rapid radicalization of the working women and of the working class generally, as exemplified by the class battles in mining, textile, needle, and shoe industries all over the country in which women play a very important part, militantly resisting the bosses' offensive. It will be the task of the Party, especially during the recruiting drive, to recruit the most militant and class conscious working women into our Party.

What Lenin Taught.

The industries assigned to each district for concentration, employ large numbers of working women. This means that we will have to enroll in the ranks of the Party during this campaign, working women from basic and war industries. While the campaign applies to workers as a whole, special methods will have to be employed to reach the women. What Comrade Lenin taught us about reaching women in czarist Russia is applicable to imperialist America today. Comrade Lenin said:

"The working women must be taught to fight together with the men against the tyranny of the capitalists, to fight for social legislation, for a shorter working day, for better wages. The working and peasant women must be taught to fight together with their brothers and husbands against czarism and against capitalism for their full emancipation. The lesson is taught first of all by the factory itself, which unites the working men and women into one family of labor."

While the importance of work among women has been accepted by our Party in theory, very little has been carried out in practice. There still exists in our Party a very grave underestimation of the importance of work among women, remnants of social democratic tendencies. In many districts work among women is considered the task of the Women's Department or the women members of the Party only. We must recognize the importance of this work in the present period of rationalization, and combine our present membership drive with building the apparatus for work among women. In a letter sent us by the International Women's Secretariat of the CI, they say in part the following:

"The C. P. can only function as a leader of the proletariat of the USA insofar as it recognizes (not merely theoretically but in practice) how to arouse and organize the working women, and understands how to do it."

In the present period of post-war capital-

ism, class battles are the order of the day. Our Party must undergo drastic changes in its methods of work. This applies to work among women in particular. In order to fulfill our task it will be necessary to reorientate our Party for work among women. Our main attention should be directed not towards housewives and skilled workers, but towards the factories, shops and mills of the unskilled and most exploited Negro and white working women. Practically no attention has been given by the districts in recruiting Negro working women into the Party. This will have to be remedied.

On Meeting Agenda.

The district committees in laying plans for the drive must have on the agenda a special item, "Working Women," this question to be discussed by the entire committee, plans to be laid based upon surveys of the factories in the district which employ large numbers of women. This important work cannot be left to the Women's Department alone. It must be the work of the whole district machinery, as an integral part of Communist activities—organization, industrial, Negro, agitprop, anti-imperialist. The success in this direction will depend on the manner in which we succeed in mobilizing the district as a whole for recruiting working women into our ranks.

In our preparatory work in this campaign, we must place the question of recruiting women, on the agenda of every meeting in the districts, sections and units, trade union and fraternal fractions. Only this will assure adequate attention to the problem. We must gain members from basic industries, proletarian women to better the present composition of the Party.

At the present time half of our membership of women are housewives, and the remainder are mainly needle trades workers, office workers, clerks, school teachers. The geographical distribution is also very bad, most of the members being concentrated in New York, Boston, Chicago and other big cities. In the big industrial sections where the large plants are concentrated, in the South, in the textile towns, we have practically no women members. In laying plans for reaching women and recruiting them for the Party, each district will be faced with the problem of colonization. Forces from the cities will have to be shifted to the smaller towns where the large plants are concentrated. This is by no means a small job, and much consideration will have to be given to this problem. The Young Communist League will have to be drawn into this work—the comrades to be colonized will have to be trained.

Only through full Communist understanding of the importance of work among women and through carefully planned systematic work, day in and day out, can we in practice carry through the decisions of the Sixth World Congress and the Fourth Congress of the RILU, that of building a mass Communist Party.

We must come out of this campaign stronger organizationally, with more proletarian and Negro members in the Party, more shop nuclei, shop papers, entrench ourselves in the factories, build our Party apparatus for work among women, build our new unions, and the auxiliary organizations, proletarianization of leading committees, develop Communist forces for work in the shops and factories. Our slogans must be:

Working women enroll under the banner of Communism!!

Join the Communist Party of the U.S.A., section of the Communist International!