

ENROLL WORKING WOMEN IN SHOP NUCLEI

By ANNA DAMON.

ONE of the main tasks of our Party at the present period is to reach into the factories of basic industries, to gain influence over the workers, to build a functioning Communist apparatus inside the factories, to lead the workers in their daily struggles and strikes, which are rapidly increasing and involving hundreds and thousands of workers, especially the unskilled and unorganized. This becomes especially important in our unemployment and March 8 campaign recruiting drive and build in the Trade Union Unity League.

In connection with the present International Women's Day the necessity for reaching inside of the factories is of vital importance. Up to the present time shop concentration in factories where women are employed has not been carried through. Wherever such decisions have been made they remained paper decisions. Some of the incomplete results of the recruiting drive already show that we made no real efforts to reach working women in shops; as, for example, Detroit, one of the most important automobile centers, which recruited only 18 women from shops out of 572 members. Similar conditions exist in other districts. Of the 152 Negroes recruited in New York, only 6 are women; in Chicago, of 91 Negroes recruited, 4 are women.

Basis Must Be in Shops.

The basis of our work must be in shops. In speaking of unorganizer and unskilled workers, we must recognize the millions of women in industry—23 per cent of all workers in the United States. Ninety-three per cent of working women are unskilled and semi-skilled. 4 per cent laborers and only 3 per cent are skilled.

The work to win the women workers for the Party, to mobilize them for fight against imperialist war, in defense of the Soviet Union, against rationalization, must be considered by every Party members as a major task. Comrades should be assigned definitely to this work and made responsible to carry it on. Women comrades should be utilized for this work, but the work must be that of the shop nucleus as a whole.

There are at the present time very few shop nuclei in the basic industries and practically none of them have any women members. We must in the recruiting drive consider this as a very serious shortcoming and take steps to overcome it. The conditions for recruiting women into the Party from the shops are very favorable. The degree of radicalization which is taking place among the working class has also reached the working women. The extreme speed-up, wage cuts, unemployment, has been met with militant opposition by the women workers, as indicated by spontaneous strikes. These strikes are spreading. It seems, however, that the Party membership does not fully grasp the degree of radicalization that is going on among the working women and the opportunities that exist for the Party to mobilize them for the class struggle. There is a very grave under-estimation of the importance of women as an industrial factor and a potential revolutionary force. There still exist the social democratic tendencies of the past that we cannot approach women in the economic struggles. This is the main obstacle in recruiting women from basic industries into shop nuclei, for recruiting them into the Party. Once we overcome this we will be able to work out plans and special methods for recruiting women members into the shop nuclei and build sympathetic circles around the shop nucleus. Colonization of competent women comrades in the factories should receive immediate attention. Some of the special methods of work to be undertaken are:

Organizational Tasks.

1. Electing a women's work director in mixed factories to be on the executive of the nucleus.
2. District Committee to call meetings of

the shop nucleus executive committee chosen for concentration, organization secretary, agit-prop secretary, industrial secretary and women's work secretary to be present at this meeting, where a plan of action should be worked out for work inside the factories. Colonization

Notice on Membership Drive Chart.

Due to the delay in receiving mail as a result of Saturday, February 22 being a legal holiday the regular weekly chart and comment on the Party Recruiting Drive will appear in the Daily Worker on Wednesday, February 26.

ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

of competent women comrades, slogans, demands, building of circles, women's page in shop paper, mobilization for unemployment, International Women's Day, propaganda for joining shop committees, etc. Work should also be assigned, that is specific tasks for the sections for outside factory, such as literature distribution, factory gate meetings, neighborhood meetings.

3. Working out special demands for the shop based upon general demands of the Party and the Trade Union Unity League, taking in special grievances against factory authorities, wage cuts, speed up, lack of sanitation, etc., paying special attention to the Negro women.

4. Popularizing these demands in shop papers and "Working Woman."

5. Shop papers to have a special woman's page.

6. Electing a standing committee from the section of the shop nucleus territory to cover periodically the factory with literature to arrange periodic factory gate meetings, speakers to popularize the demands advanced in the press and to arouse the working women inside the factories for action.

7. To build around the shop nucleus sympathetic circles of social, educational, character, to organize workers correspondence from the factory. Fractions in trade unions and sympathetic language organizations are to be mobilized for this work.

8. In shops and factories where members of Negro workers are employed, the nucleus should be on the lookout for instances of racial discrimination within the factory. Examples of such discrimination would be: lower wages for Negro workers doing the same work as white workers; discrimination in hiring and firing. The action of Wanamaker's Department store in segregating all colored employees in a separate cafeteria, which aroused much anger on the part of the colored workers, was an excellent issue for a shop nucleus to take up, had there been a nucleus of the Party in this store.

8. Every Communist trade union fraction should appoint a responsible organizer man or woman comrade) from midst for trade union work among the women.

9. The trade union organizer must work in closest association with the factory nuclei of all the factories in which working women are employed in the trade represented by the union concerned.

It is only through carefully planned systematic work in the shop that we will be able to mobilize working women and arouse them to action under the leadership of the Communist Party.

We must fight the reluctance for work among women in the Party. We must fight the existing ideas, remnants of social democracy, that women cannot be organized. We can and must approach the working women on the political and economic demands of the Party and the Trade Union Unity League, making use of special methods of approach to gain the confidence of the women workers.