

The Question of Workers' Clubs

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IN many sections of the party comrades have for some time been proceeding with the organization of workers' clubs. Our policy has been to concentrate first in the actual reorganization of the party into the new units, into shop and street nuclei, and to go ahead with the actual large scale organization of workers' clubs only after having achieved, to a substantial extent, the reorganization of the party.

We have already reached that stage in our reorganization when we should examine the concrete tasks of organizing workers' clubs on a large scale.

What is a Workers' Club?

A WORKERS' CLUB is an association, society, league or club of workers. These workers are Communists and non-Communist proletarians. The Communist members of the workers' club are those workingmen who were formerly members of one or more of the former language branches of a particular nationality in the Workers (Communist) Party and who are now members of our shop or street nuclei. The non-Communist members of the club are workers who are not party members. Occasionally, these workers may be sympathizers. Often they may not even be Communist sympathizers.

We must at all times keep in mind

this character of the composition of the workers' clubs. These clubs should, if at all possible, be developed into mass organizations; but we should not make them so big as to prevent their proper functioning.

What is the Purpose of the Workers' Club?

THE workers' club has its own special activities. It may be an educational, literary, athletic or social club. It may have its own library and social or athletic center.

The workers' club, like all other organizations where non-Communist workers are found, can and should serve as a recruiting field for the Communists, for our party. The party members of the various national groups should enter these clubs and participate vigorously and constructively in all the activities of these clubs. Thus, our party members will be able to influence and win greater numbers of workers for Communism. It is our duty to make such clubs real, functioning, living organizations so that our party will be able to have a better approach to the masses of the different nationalities in the country.

In working in these clubs our party members must be very careful not to be mechanical. Communists do not win and cannot hold proletarian followers thru mechanical, artificial means. The Communists should do

everything to develop a genuine interest on the part of the non-party proletarians in the club activities and must themselves strive to win prestige and leadership only thru their constructive efforts.

How to Organize a Workers' Club.

THE steps to be taken in organizing a workers' club are very simple. These steps follow:

1. Call a language fraction meeting consisting of the members of one or more of the former language branches of a particular national group; for example, Finnish or South Slavic or Lithuanian, etc. Steps should be taken to visit and speak with those who were formerly members of the language branch but who failed to register to date and have failed to remain in the party thru joining a shop or street nucleus. Everything should be done to win these comrades back to the party, to register them, to have them come to these language fraction meetings and thus to rejoin the party.

2. At this language fraction meeting, the name of the workers' club to be organized is to be considered and acted upon. The model constitution sent recently to the various party units should be considered as a basis for a constitution for the workers' club.

3. At this language fraction meeting set a date on which the organization meeting of the workers' club is to

be held. Make all arrangements necessary for securing the proper place for meeting.

4. Every party member should bring with him at least one and if possible many more, sympathizers or non-Communist proletarians to the organization meeting of the workers' club.

5. Efforts should be made to announce in the sympathetic language press or thru posted notices in the workers' national centers or in the clubhouses of such national organizations in which the masses that may be attracted by the workers' club usually come.

6. At the first meeting of the workers' club officers should be provided for, rules of organization and activities adopted, etc.

7. In the smaller towns and cities one workers' club of a particular nationality, let us say, a Ukrainian Educational Society, may be sufficient. In such larger centers as New York or Chicago it may be necessary to push the organization of more than one workers' club.

The party members belonging to this newly organized workers' club must serve as a party fraction in this non-partisan society. All the rules and regulations provided for other party fractions shall be carried out by the party fraction in the workers' club.