

# PARTY ORGANIZER

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## Building the United Front for Struggle

*"The Executive Committee of the Communist International firmly believes that the social democratic and non-party workers regardless of what attitude the social democratic leaders adopt in setting up the united front, will overcome all obstacles and, together with the Communists, set up the united front not in words but in deeds."*

**T**HE Twelfth Plenum Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International and the Fourteenth and Sixteenth Plenum Resolutions of our Central Committee place in the center of the activity, the necessity of speeding up the intensity of the work of the Party to win the decisive sections of the American working class for revolutionary action. In all the directives of the Party it has been continuously pointed out that the Party cannot successfully rally the masses for struggle unless we react to every problem which agitates the workers. The key to setting the masses in motion is the correct application of the united front tactic—uniting the workers, regardless of their political or religious beliefs, in a struggle around their most immediate demands.

The Manifesto of the Communist International and the call of our Central Committee for united action against the capitalist offensive furnishes us with a powerful weapon to mobilize the masses for struggle to resist the capitalist attack. We must apply it in the immediate struggle for the freedom of Tom Mooney and the Scottsboro boys, for the fight against wage cuts, for unemployed relief and federal insurance, in the fight against fascism and the growing war danger. May Day, furnishes the possibility for the widest application of the united front for struggle. Through the correct application of the united front tactic, we can break through our narrow circle and rally thousands of workers from the factories, neighborhoods, labor organizations in struggle. At the same time this weapon will enable the Party to convince the workers, members of the Socialist Party, American Federation of Labor and other reformist organizations on the basis of concrete facts and the experiences of the struggle the role played by the Socialist Party and A. F. of L. leaderships.

The Districts, sections, shop and street nuclei, the fractions in the revolutionary and reformist trade unions, in the mass organizations must go forward and boldly apply the united

front policy to each concrete situation. They must weigh each experience, draw the lessons of the struggle, analyze the many problems which arise, work towards overcoming all difficulties, and combating any distortions of the application of the united front.

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What are some of the problems we face? After the Central Committee's call we printed in the *Daily Worker* a number of letters written by members of the Socialist Party were received. The main point in these letters was how can anyone think that the Central Committee is sincere on the united front when already in the call the "violate" the C. I. instructions, according to which "the E. C. C. I. considers it possible to recommend to the Communist Parties during the time of common fight against capital and fascism, to refrain from making attacks on social-democratic organizations." It is necessary to make clear to every Party member that a united front with other organizations is not a non-aggression pact. The Communist Party will never stop exposing those who have betrayed the interests of the working class, before, during, or after the agreement is reached for a united front.

If, and when, the representatives of the Communist Party agree on a common fight, on a concrete program of action against the bourgeoisie with the representatives of the Socialist Party, A. F. of L., Conference for Progressive Labor Action, or with any one of them, the Party will refrain from making attacks against them during the time of the common fight. This we agree to do in order to make it impossible for those who refuse to fight for the interests of the masses to hide behind the excuse of being attacked. But the most ruthless fight will be conducted against all those who violate the conditions of the agreement.

We should at all times make public before the masses the proposals we make as well as those of our opponents. In reaching an agreement the Communist Party representatives must and will fight for a "concrete program of action," otherwise "any agreement will be directed against the interests of the workers." The united front is not a non-aggression pact between the Communists and the Socialists. It is a proposal for united action against the attacks of the capitalists.

In the course of efforts to reach an agreement we will have meetings with the representatives of the various organizations, on a national, district, city or neighborhood scale. These meetings cannot be secret dealings. Every step, proposal must be brought to the attention of all workers. Every step that is being discussed in these conferences should be made known to the widest strata of the workers.

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We enter into a united front for a common struggle against

certain grievances or for certain demands on a minimum program of action. But the C. P. cannot and will not give up its program in fighting capitalism. The Party must bring forward this full program to the masses. The Communists must prove to the masses that because the C. P. stands for the overthrow of bourgeois dictatorship, it is the only Party working for the revolutionary unity of the workers. In its everyday struggle and in the performance of its historical mission the Party works to unite the workers, for without establishing such unity on the basis of class struggle, the working class will be unable to defeat its class enemies. Speeches, leaflets, pamphlets must state the Communist program in every action. The united front cannot be viewed as a new organization in which the Communist Party will be dissolved, in which the independent role of the Party is submerged.

The Districts, sections, units, revolutionary unions, mass organizations should immediately initiate calls for conferences of the executives of labor organizations in their given territory to achieve the unity of the workers in the May Day demonstration. This does not mean that if a Socialist Party branch or A. F. of L. local or a city committee of these organizations invites us for a united action for struggle on a burning issue concerning the workers in the territory or in the shop, that we should not go into this united front because we were not the ones who initiated it. We have an example in a city where a Socialist Branch invited us to unite all the forces for the May Day demonstration. The Party leadership hesitated to accept the invitation and decided to ignore it and "initiate" the united front. This mistake was checked in time. We have to keep in mind that the Communists have nothing to fear. We should enter into any united front with workers if the aim is to fight for the interests of the workers against capitalism.

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We have to emphasize all the time that the unorganized masses must be approached and won by us exactly through our united front tactic. Nobody will deny that a successful united front action of the organized workers in a given city will have tremendous influence on the unorganized workers. They will be drawn into the struggle. But at the same time everything should be done to unite the unorganized workers with the organized. In our preparation for May Day, for the Tom Mooney Congress, in our fight against fascism, against war, we have to penetrate the factories where as yet the workers do not belong to any organizations; penetrate in the neighborhood where the unemployed are outside of any unemployed organizations. We have to build up committees in the factories, in the neighborhoods. These committees will be united front bodies embracing all the workers in these places, including organized workers.

The Party committees in the districts, sections, cities, shops, neighborhoods will approach the respective committees of the Socialist Party, A. F. of L., C.P.L.A., and unemployed organizations. At the same time, however, while working out proposals for united action in these conferences the call should be printed and distributed among the members of these organizations and to the workers generally, informing them what steps have been taken by our Party and asking them to support the united front actions. It is not obligatory to build a united front around all the demands laid down by the Central Committee call. It is possible that in a shop, in a certain territory or city to build up a wide united front on one or two issues concerning the workers. With the utmost energy the Party everywhere should immediately begin to develop the united actions of the workers proving to them that:

“The Communists have proved through their long years of struggle that they stand and will stand, not in words but in deeds, in the front ranks of the fight for the united front in class actions against the bourgeoisie.”

—J. P.

### **Experiences In Building of a Department Committee in a Large Plant.**

**T**HE Packing House Workers Industrial Union, which is already established in one of the small plants, elected a committee to concentrate on one large plant where about 1200 workers are employed. Many of the workers in this plant knew about the Packing House Workers Industrial Union. The sentiment for our union was created by the action taken by the union in the small plant, when they carried through a stoppage for a few hours because the company laid off one man.

The Committee had made many previous attempts to get together a group of workers from the large plant, but on account of the terror the workers were afraid to get together. The conditions in the plant were steadily growing worse, wages were cut left and right. The burning issue in the large plant was the breaking of the 40-hour week guarantee.

#### **We Take the First Steps**

At the regular meeting of the Packing House Workers Industrial Union we took up the question of organizing the large plant primarily around the issue of the 40-hour week guarantee. A few workers volunteered to bring workers from the large plant to the next meeting of the Union. To this meeting we succeeded in getting one worker from the large plant. Here we discussed the problems in the plant with this one worker and he agreed to get some more workers from his department to a meeting. He promised to bring about 8 workers