

# The Utilization of the Party Press— The Development of Cadres

*(Excerpts from speech of Comrade Peters,  
to Central Committee Meeting.)*

**T**HE directives of the Central Committee today to the lower organizations, to the districts, sections and units, are

given through the **Daily Worker**. The editorials and articles in the **Daily Worker** are the editorials and the articles of the Central Committee. If Comrade Amter writes an article about the C.W.A., this is not Comrade Amter's articles, it is the PolBuro's article. If Comrade Hathaway writes an article, it is not Comrade Hathaway's personal article, it is an article expressing the opinion of the PolBuro, and giving the leadership of the PolBuro to the Party.

How do we utilize the **Daily Worker** today? To a large extent, our membership is not aware of the fact that through the **Daily Worker**, the Central Committee gives daily political guidance and even organizational directives. Many of these articles, many of these editorials, are simply shelved and filed, without being considered, and sometimes not even being read, not only by the unit and section leadership, but even by the district leadership. That is why it is possible to have inquiries from certain districts, three months after the Anti-War Congress, asking, "What kind of a committee is this anti-war committee? We do not know anything about it. You did not send any directives."

A situation may arise when the Central Committee can speak to the membership only through the press, when the political line can be given only through the press. If the comrades do not learn to use the press today, then, in such a situation, the membership will be disconnected politically from the leadership of the Party.

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### Reserve Cadres Must Be Prepared

The Open Letter and the control tasks dealing with concentration say: "We have to strengthen the leading cadres in these plants and guarantee capable leadership of these selected units and sections." In another place the Open Letter says: "It is necessary to develop a strong corps of proletarian cadres experienced in mass work and establish collective leadership of sections and tried secretaries in the units."

Let us consider what it means to lack forces and to lack cadres. In Germany thousands of our functionaries are in concentration camps, hundreds were executed, tortured, taken away from the Party. If the German Party had not been able to replace these leaders, if it had not already prepared in advance reserve cadres, it would not be able now to carry on its heroic struggle, and to give leadership to the German working class. But the German Communist Party, because it understood in advance what it means to develop its forces, had thousands and thousands of comrades who were ready to step into the place of the arrested comrades.

Let us examine our own situation in regard to our cadres today. We can state that in the recent period we have

succeeded in stabilizing our forces to some extent. There is less shifting of our cadres from one place to another. In certain districts and sections we have established leaders who have grown up in the struggles, and we do not, as in the past, take them from this place, where they are known, and where they have developed, and send them to some other place. We have more local leaders in the unions. In the textile, marine and mining conferences we saw how the new forces are coming forward, how they are really developing leadership in the basic industries all over the country. The same is true in the unemployed movement.

### Bad Practices

However, in some districts and even in the center we have examples which show that we have not entirely overcome our bad practices. For example, a comrade is removed from a certain post because he failed on the job, or made certain political blunders which could not be corrected. What do we do with this comrade? He is placed in another post almost as responsible as the one from which he was removed.

The second weakness, which is one of the main problems before the Party, is that we place in responsible work forces which are not sufficiently proved and tried. We do not check up sufficiently when we assign comrades to work,—where he came from, who he is, how did he carry on the work previously. He becomes a leader, and often we do not know whether he is a tried and reliable comrade who should be leading responsible work.

We have experiences where in important Party offices, we place technical forces without any discrimination.

We have examples where spies can come into such offices and get the addresses of the members of the organization easily. For instance, someone volunteered his services to the W.I.R. The comrades were very glad to accept the offer of voluntary work, without investigation. Within two or three weeks a couple of hundred dollars were stolen from the envelopes that came into this office, by this willing volunteer. Many of our offices are careless in this respect. Anyone who is willing to work without pay, can work in many of our organizations.

The third basic weakness of the Party in respect to cadres is the demoralization of our forces because of the lack of support from the Party committee which assigns him to work. Every district can offer examples to prove this point. In one particular case a comrade was assigned to carry on certain work. He did his work, and then because he was starving, he asked to be released. The leading comrades quoted Lenin on Bolshevik discipline and forced him to remain. As a result this comrade deserted his post and was expelled

from the Party as a deserter. Now, this comrade was not a steeled Bolshevik. He was weak. But if the District at the first sign of demoralization had considered the problem, and had permitted him to go to work, this comrade would have been saved for the Party.

### No Time Can Be Lost!

We must bear in mind that our time is very short. We cannot lose a minute in developing the new forces. Comrade Lenin says:

“Revolutionary epochs are to the social-democrats the same as wartime to the army. We must expand the cadres of our army, from peace contingents the reserve forces must be mobilized, the men on furlough must be called to the colors, new auxiliary corps, detachments and services must be set up. One must not forget that in wartime it is inevitable and necessary to replenish one's ranks by raw recruits, frequently replace officers by rank and file soldiers, accelerate and simplify the promotion of soldiers to officers' ranks.”

We have to very boldly bring forward the best elements in the Party to leadership, and no time can be lost. We must organize schools,—not only full time schools where we take the workers out of the factories, but evening schools, where after work they can come to school, learn, and then go back to the factory and be the leaders of the workers in the factory. We must train forces from the unions and mass organizations, and first and foremost from the native-born elements. Especially must we train forces from among the women. The Thesis of the 13th Plenum of the E.C.C.I. points out the importance of developing women cadres, because of the approaching war. When the men are sent to the front, the women will remain here, and will have to carry much of the responsibility. We must develop forces among the Negroes, among the youth and among the colonial workers in America. These are the categories on which we have to concentrate in the shortest possible time.

It is necessary to pay more attention to the comrades who have already received training, and who are engaged in work. They must be supplied with all the literature of our Party. We must follow their activity, watch their development, give them guidance and assistance, and help them really to develop into mass leaders.

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