

The Organizational Structure of the Party

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(The following material is taken from a handbook on the Communist Party which will be off the press in the next few weeks.)

What Is the Organizational Structure of the Party?

THE basic organization of the Party is the shop unit (nucleus), which may consist of three members or more in a given place of employment, i.e., factory, shop, mine, mill, dock, ship, railway terminal, office, store, farm, etc.

The other form of membership organization is the street or town unit, comprising a group of members living within a given territory.

The leadership of the unit is the unit bureau, elected by the membership of the unit.

The next higher organization is the Section. The Section is made up of a number of shop, street or town units in a given territory. The size of the territory of a Section is decided upon by the District Committee. The Party should strive to make the territory of the Sections as small as possible in order to be able to carry on work more effectively.

The highest body in the Section is the Section Convention. The Section Convention is a meeting of delegates elected by the shop and street units of the Section. The leading committee in the Section is the Section Committee and is elected by the delegates at the Section Convention from among the best members of the Section. The Section Committee is the highest leading body in the Section between conventions. It is responsible for all its actions and decisions to the Section Convention. The elected Section Committee must be approved by the District Committee. The Section Organizer is elected by the Section Committee, subject to the approval of the District Committee.

The next highest organization in the Party is the District. The District Organization is made up of the Sections in a territory assigned to it by the Central Committee. The District covers a certain portion of the country (a part of one, or one, two and sometimes three states, depending upon the industries, on the size of the membership, etc.). The highest body in the District is the Convention, which is a meeting of delegates elected at the Conventions of the Sections belonging to the District. Between conventions, the highest committee in the District is the District Committee elected by the delegates of the Sections at the District Con-

vention. The District Committee is responsible for all its actions and decisions to the District Convention and C.C. The elected District Committee has to be approved by the Central Committee. The District Organizer (political leader) is elected by the District Committee subject to the approval of the Central Committee.

The highest Party body is the National Convention. The National Convention is a meeting of delegates elected at the District Conventions. The highest committee of the Party in one country is the Central Committee elected by the delegates at the National Convention. The Central Committee leads the Party organizations, with full authority, between Conventions and is responsible for its actions and decisions to the National Convention and the E.C.C.I.

What Is the Basis of Representation to the Convention?

The number of delegates to the Convention are not fixed in the Constitution of the Party. It depends on the conditions in a given situation besides the numerical strength of the given units, Sections and Districts.

The strategic importance of a shop unit, or concentration Section, or of a District, is the governing factor in deciding the number of delegates to the Conventions. The Party Committee, for example, can decide whether a shop unit from a big factory sends proportionately more delegates to the Section Convention than a street unit with the same or less number of members.

The conditions under which the Party works also is an important factor in deciding the number of delegates. For example, a District which works partly illegally will have a smaller number of delegates than from units of the same size in another District.

On the other hand, in one District, because of certain problems which have to be clarified in the broadest possible gathering, the situation may demand a much larger representation from the units or Sections to the Section or District Convention than another District where no such problem exists.

To take as an example the Eighth Party Convention of our Party, the general rule of representation was the following:

1. The units elected one delegate for each five members to the Section Convention.
2. The Section Conventions elected one delegate for each 15 members in the Section to the District Convention.
3. The District Conventions elected one delegate for each 100 members in the District to the National Convention.

At the same time we must bear in mind that the Section Committee or the higher Party committee must have among its members comrades who are working in the most important factories and members of the most important trade

unions in order to have the living connection between the leadership and the masses in these important points.

The size of the Party committees always depends on the numerical strength of the organization, which elects it, on the importance of it, on the given situation and its demands on the Party. The approximate average size of the Committee is the following:

Unit Bureau	— 3— 5 members
Section Committee	— 9—11 members
District Committee	—15—19 members
Central Committee	—30—35 members

What Are the Party Bureaus ?

The Bureau is the leading body in the Section, District and Center between committee meetings, which acts with full authority during this period and is responsible to the committee by which it is elected. Their approximate size is:

Section Bureau	— about 5 members
District Bureau	— about 7—9 members
Political Bureau of the C.C.	—7—9 members

How Often Do the Committees Meet ?

As a general rule the Party committees meet as follow:

Unit Bureau	—once a week.
Section Bureau	—once a week.
Section Committee	—twice, or at least once a month.
District Bureau	—once a week.
District Committee	—once a month.
Political Bureau	—once a week.
Central Committee	—once in two months.

What Is the Communist International (Comintern) ?

The Communist International is the organization of the Communist Parties in all countries. It is the World Communist Party.

What Is the Highest Body of All Communist Parties ?

The World Congress composed of delegates from all Parties affiliated to the Communist International (Comintern) is the highest authority in Communist Party organization.

The date of the Congress and the number of delegates from the various Communist Parties is decided upon by the Executive Committee of the Communist International (E.C.C.I.). But the number of votes allocated to each Party at the World Congress is decided upon by special decision of the Congress itself in accordance with the membership of the given Party, and the political importance of the given country.

The leading body of the Communist International during the period between Congresses, is the Executive Committee of the Communist International (E.C.C.I.), elected by the delegates at the World Congress. The decisions of the E.C.C.I.

are binding for all parties belonging to the Comintern and must be promptly carried out. The Communist Parties have the right to appeal against decisions of the E.C.C.I. to the World Congresses, but must continue to carry out such decisions pending the final action of the World Congress on the appeal. The leadership of the Comintern (C.I.) is composed of the best, most developed, experienced, tried, revolutionary leaders of the various Communist Parties.

The meetings of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in all cases assume the character of a Congress. These meetings are called the Enlarged Plenums of the Executive Committee of the C.I. Besides the elected members of the Executive Committee of the C.I. there are invited to this Enlarged Plenum, additional delegates from the various countries, so that those plenums have 300 or 400 delegates present from the various parties. The difference between a Congress and an Enlarged Plenum consists of the fact that while delegates to the Congress are elected on the basis of numerical strength and political importance of the Communist Parties, the number of additional invited delegates from the Communist Parties to the Enlarged Plenum are decided upon on the basis of the order of business of the Plenum. These delegates are selected by the Central Committees of the various Communist Parties. At the Enlarged Plenum of the E.C.C.I. only the members of the E.C.C.I. have the right to vote. The other invited delegates have the right to participate in the discussion, but have only a consultative vote.

The E.C.C.I. meets once a year. The E.C.C.I. elects from among its members a Presidium (bureau of the Executive Committee) which is responsible to the E.C.C.I. The Presidium meets once a month and acts as the permanent body in carrying out all the business of the E.C.C.I. during the period between meetings of the latter.

The Presidium elects from among its members the Political Secretariat (small bureau) which is empowered to make decisions between Presidium meetings, and is responsible to the Presidium and to the E.C.C.I.

Let us briefly sum up the structure of the Communist Party in the order of responsibility on the basis of the foregoing description:

Unit Buro	District Convention
Unit Membership Meeting	Political Buro
Section Buro	Central Committee
Section Committee	National Convention
Section Convention	Political Secretariat of the C.I.
District Buro	Presidium of the C.I.
District Committee	Executive Committee of the C.I.
	World Congress of the C.I.

Who Is Eligible for Membership in the Communist Party ?

Any person from the age of eighteen up who accepts the program, constitution and by-laws (statutes) of the C. I. and the Communist Party of the U. S. A.

What Are the Conditions for Membership in the C. P. ?

1. Activity in a unit; carrying out of fraction work.
2. Regular payment of membership dues.
3. Carrying out of all **decisions** of the Comintern and of the Party.
4. Adherence to the **discipline** of the Party and C. I.

If a worker who is less than 18 years of age wants to join the Party, and there is no Young Communist League in the town or factory, the Party unit has the right to accept him into the unit, get him a membership book and permit him to remain in the Party unit until, with the help of the Party unit, he is able to build up a unit of the Y.C.L.

(Following issues of the Party Organizer will contain further articles on the organizational structure of the Party and other informative material taken from the Handbook.)

Reminder

1. Send reports to the **PARTY ORGANIZER** and "Party Life" column of the **DAILY WORKER** on the May First campaign, emphasizing especially how we were able to utilize the May First campaign, 1935, to strengthen the Party in the factories, in the trade unions, etc.

2. Report on what steps your District, Section, unit has taken to change the life of the units in the farm territories, along the directives given in the article, "Building Units in the Countryside", by J. Barnett, in the April **PARTY ORGANIZER**.

3. Report on the steps that your District, Section or unit is taking to build the propagandist groups to visit the small industrial towns during spring and summer, along the directives in the article by F. Brown, "Build the Party in the Small Towns", in the April **PARTY ORGANIZER**.

4. Report on the steps taken to utilize the radio. (See article by Comrades Brown and Barnett in the April **PARTY ORGANIZER**.)
