

THE CONCENTRATION GROUP— WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS

THE complete reorganization of the League upon the basis of shop nuclei is not possible immediately due to the fact that our members work in many and scattered shops, averaging only one League member to a shop. Under these conditions, it is necessary to devise some means whereby it will be easier to organize shop nuclei, and it will not be necessary to wait until we have a greater number of members working in the same shops. For this purpose we organize CONCENTRATION GROUPS.

What It Is.

We recommend that a concentration group consists of a number of members of the Young Workers League working shops close together—within a few minutes walk or ride. The shops must be close enough to permit the members to meet during the lunch hour and after work every day, to exchange experiences and talk over the work of the day. This can be changed according to the existing conditions. The group should consist of from 3 to 7 members, so that it will be able to function easily. More members would make it difficult to meet at a moment's notice, and would make the group somewhat unwieldy.

Work of Concentration Group.

These comrades are organized into a concentration group, which is a fundamental unit of the organization. In the group they carry on all the work of the League—the routine work, such as paying dues, getting literature, handling the every-day affairs of the League; they take up internal League matters, discussions, campaigns, elect delegates to conferences and conventions and in addition to all this, they make it their special duty to organize nuclei in the shops where our members work, if they are large enough, or in other shops in the neighborhood, if necessary.

Officers of Group.

As soon as a concentration group is organized, it elects the necessary officers—organizer, secretary and literature agent will be sufficient in most cases. The other members shall also be assigned definite work so that each one bears a definite responsibility. At the very first meeting of the group, a report shall be given by each member on his shop—the number of workers, the conditions of work, etc. On the basis of these reports, the group is to plan its work. It should pick out the shops where the conditions are most favorable, with the help of the D. E. C., and plan the work in these shops so as to increase the number of members to the point where it will be possible to organize a shop nucleus. If the League members work in small shops, an inventory should be taken of the shops in the neighborhood, and the largest and most favorable ones should be selected for work.

Group Meetings.

The problem of meetings is an important one for the group, as the contact between the members depends on that. It is advisable that the members meet informally at least every day, either during the lunch hour or

right after work. The best thing to do is select a certain street centrally located for the members, and arrange for every member to be there at a certain hour. (In most of the big cities there are "markets" where the workers of certain industries generally meet.) At these informal meetings, the members can receive instructions from the officers or from the higher bodies, they can report on their activities, arrange for help, obtain literature, etc. More important still, it will make the group a compact unit, it will knit the members closely together, and in this way, make for better functioning of the League.

In addition to these daily informal meetings, the group must also meet regularly at least twice a week either during the lunch hour, or right after work. The latter is preferable, as there will be more time. At these meetings, the officers and members are to report on their work, the force are to be distributed in accordance with the new conditions, the League work generally is to be taken up dues are paid, etc. At least one of these meetings should be an educational meeting. The members can discuss some important current event, or conduct a regular class either with one of their own members, or with someone else as the leader.

Occasionally, it will be possible to have open meetings, however, only under the most favorable circumstances can this be done. Young workers should however, be invited to the meetings by the individual members. Of course care must be taken that the young workers invited are reliable, so that the members in the group shall not lose their jobs. In this way, some new members can be won for the group.

Forming Shop Nuclei.

As soon as enough new members have been won so that in one of the shops there are three members, those three are broken away and form a shop nucleus. Sometimes, one or two more from the group are attached to the shop nucleus. Sometimes, as soon as two members who are not in the shop nucleus being attached to another nucleus or concentration group. If the concentration groups function properly, within a short time, they will go out of existence and the entire League will consist of shop nuclei.

Activities in Shops.

It must be remembered that a good deal of the success of the concentration group depends on the activity of the comrades in their shops. They must constantly try to win over to the League more young workers from their shops. This they can do by personal propaganda, by activity in shop meetings, by fighting for the interests of the workers and young workers, by distributing literature, by inviting the young workers to affairs of the Party and League.

For instance, every member should make it his duty to bring at least two workers from the shop to the Liebknecht and Lenin meetings. In this way, the young workers in the shop will learn about the Communist movement, will see that their place is in it, and will become members of the Young Workers League. All these activities of the members must be reported to the group, so that the rest will profit from the experiences and the group as a whole will be able to advise each member on this work.

The group as a whole, in addition to directing the activities of the members, must also undertake the organization of shop nuclei in the most important factories in the vicinity. This can be done by properly conducted factory campaigns.

—H. ZAM.

Next Issue—How a Nucleus Works.
How an Individual Can Work in a Shop.

