

How to Conduct Factory Campaigns

A FACTORY campaign is conducted either for the purpose of organizing a shop nucleus, or of strengthening one. A secondary purpose is the winning over of the young workers ideologically to the League. But unless there is an organization in the factory to follow up the ideological success, the League will gain no permanent benefit.

Selecting the Factory.

A factory campaign may therefore be conducted by a shop nucleus in its own or in a neighboring factory, or by a concentration group. The nature of the campaign will of course depend on the conditions in the factory. In choosing the factory for the campaign, the first consideration is the number of young workers it employs. The factory having the largest number of young workers is always preferable, since there is a greater field for activity. However, other factors must be taken into consideration—whether it is a union shop or not, whether we have any members in it, the conditions, etc. Having selected the factory, it will be necessary to get a League member into it, if one does not work there. It is absolutely necessary to have a League member in the factory, in order that we may know the reaction of the young workers to the campaign, and in order to be able to organize the sentiment which will be difficult to organize a shop nucleus. One of our best comrades should therefore be selected, and he is to make it his duty to get a job in the factory.

Factory Conditions.

As soon as this step is taken, it will be necessary to secure information about the factory. The hours, the wages, conditions of work, hiring and firing, sanitation—these and other matter should be thoroly learned about. It is absolutely necessary that we have a correct knowledge of the conditions and that our work is based upon this knowledge. This information should be embodied in an article

and sent in to the Young Worker. It is better to write this article at a time when something of importance to the young workers takes place. An accident, a wage-reduction, wholesale lay-off—these situations should be used as a starting point, and featured. The rest of the article can be devoted to a description of the conditions in the factory. The group in charge of the campaign should make complete preparations for the sale of the Young Worker at the factory gates during the lunch hour and after work, and should be able to begin the sale as soon as the issue of the Young Workers containing the story reaches them. They should not lay off the preparations to the last minute, and then find everything upset. The Young Worker should be sold by members who do not work in the shop, so as to prevent their being discharged. They should, however, be on the scene, see who buys the Young Worker, watch the reaction of the young workers, etc.

Start Discussion in Shop.

After the first day's sale, the comrades in the shop must very carefully start a discussion in the article and the Young Worker, in order to find out which of the young workers are most sympathetic. They must be careful, however, not to immediately disclose that they are members of the League. They must casually say that they think what the paper says is true, and everybody ought to read it, etc. In this way, they will lead the young workers into a discussion of the article, of the conditions of the shop, and be able to crystallize their opposition to the poor conditions in the shop.

Campaign in Press.

The Young Worker with the story should be sold at the gates every day for about a week, in order to make it a sort of an institution with the young workers in the factory. The next issue should contain an additional story about the same shop, and all the following issues, the featuring of the story to depend on the work our comrades are doing, and on the success

of the campaign. The spread of the Young Worker, combined with the activities of our members in the shop should result in the organization of a shop nucleus if none exists, and in strengthening of the existing ones.

Organization Work.

When the campaign has progressed to a certain stage, and when our comrades believe that the conditions are ripe, they should get together a number of the most sympathetic young workers and if possible organize them into the League.

Mass Meetings.

During the summer, open-air meetings should be conducted at the factory gates. This is impossible in the winter. An effort should also be made to call a meeting in a hall. This latter step must be taken with great caution, as it will be very easy for the boss to have a stool-pigeon at the meeting and "spot" the most active workers to have them fired.

Shop Papers.

It is not necessary to depend on the Young Worker only. The nucleus or the workers' club should issue a bulletin, which can supplement the Young Worker in spreading propaganda. Care must be taken that both in the bulletin and in the Young Worker only the truth is told, without exaggerations. If the conditions are made to appear worse than they actually are, it will antagonize the young workers.

Throught the campaign, our members in the factory must also be active carrying on personal propaganda, distributing literature carefully, boosting the demands set up and fighting for better conditions.

The campaign does not end when the nucleus has been organized, or when it has increased its membership considerably. The aim of every nucleus must be to make every young worker in the factory a League member. Of course the campaign will take on different forms, depepding upon the strengthen of the nucleus and the kind of shop.

—HERBERT ZAM