

## Tasks of Individual Member in Factory

By H. ZAM.

THE reorganization of our League on the basis of concentration groups does not mark the ends of the work for the reorganization of the League—rather does it mark the real beginning of the reorganization and further organization of the entire League on the basis of shop nuclei. The concentration groups are not permanent forms, and they can only serve a useful purpose if they make possible their own speediest liquidation. Concentration groups must serve as a stepping stone toward shop nuclei as a means for the activation of our members in the factories. This work can only be successful if it is bound up with intensive recruiting work from the shops and factories.

Our League is still very small. Our members working mostly in small industry. We have not yet sunk our roots into the broad masses of the young workers in the heavy industry in the large factories. Until we do that, we will not have the basis for the development of a mass Communist youth League in this country. The drawing in of new members from the large factories becomes our foremost task. Recruiting must be bound up with all the work of the League. Not a single campaign must pass without systematic plans and work for recruiting of new members. We must make use of every form of our activity for the extension of the base of the League. Recruiting is the work of the entire League, not merely of the officials at the top, or of special comrades selected for that purpose. The small size of the League, the few members we have working together in large shops make recruiting a specially important function of the individual comrade working alone in a factory. We must therefore make very clear the

activities of a comrade in his factory, the methods by which he carries on his work, and how he can best utilize his activities for the strengthening of the League.

In this connection there are two extremes which must be avoided if work in the factories is to be carried on successfully. There are comrades who the first day they come into the shop, make it known to everybody, including the boss, that they are Communists, that they intend to carry on intensive Communist propaganda, capture the shop, etc. These comrades generally are not able to carry out their promises for the simple reason that they are generally fired the day after they arrive. While we can admire the energy of these comrades and their enthusiasm, we certainly cannot admire their methods of carrying on work, for they are continually isolated from the workers. On the other hand, there are comrades who are so careful, that they can work in a factory for years and no one will know that they are Communists. In their entire period of work in the shop, they will never take the initiative in a fight against the boss. Such comrades are absolutely useless to the movement. Our comrades must avoid both these extremes. They must learn to carry on Communist propaganda and organization in a factory in such a manner as to win over all the workers in that factory, and at the same time avoid unnecessary exposure to being fired. A good deal of the Communist youth movement will depend on the way in which our comrades carry on their work among the young workers in the factory.

First of all, it must be remembered that we must not isolate ourselves from the young workers in the factory.

If the young workers eat their lunch in the shop at the bench, our comrades should not run out to the restaurant, and if the young workers all go to lunch room nearby, our comrades must be careful to go with them also. If the young workers play handball during the lunch hour, it would be entirely wrong for our comrades to assume a superior attitude and read books during that period. If possible they should also play handball; and if not possible, the least they can do is watch the game and take an interest in it. When the work is over, do not put on your street clothes and rush home. Go out with the crowd. Talk to the young workers on the way. Many of them may live in your neighborhood. Go home together with them. These may be small matters, but they are important, for they will determine whether you will have a means of approach to the young workers or not. Remember that even if your theories are correct and your proposals good, the young workers will not follow you, will not have confidence in you if they do not feel that you are one of them. And this can only be done by being careful of these small things.

We must learn all about the young workers and become their friends in life. Our method of approach must depend a good deal upon the background of the young worker we want to win over. There is a difference between the method of approach to a young worker in the factory, who, for example, has to support a family on his meagre wages, and one who is only working in order to earn enough money to take him thru the next term of college. A young worker whose parents are radical, who has received a more or less radical up-bringing at home will of course be much easier for us to reach than one who has been brought up in a 100% patriotic home. Our comrades in the shops must select some of the promising young workers and learn all about

them. Not only learn about them, but actually become their friends. It is not difficult to do that. A book, a newspaper, exchange of opinion on conditions in the factory these lead very easily to close relationship. It will be a thousand times easier to get when you are on these friendly terms, the young workers into the League than when you are strangers except in proximity of the machine.

The activity among the young workers, the propaganda used, the subjects chosen, must depend upon the understanding of the young workers themselves. It would be ridiculous to begin discussing let us say the question of proletarian dictatorship with a young worker when he has not the slightest idea of what the proletarian dictatorship is. Not only the subject, but also the language must depend on the understanding of the young workers. Simple subjects, in which the young workers display some interest and which they are capable of understanding should be chosen for discussion.

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