

THE BWC CENTRAL ORGAN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK FOR DISTRIBUTION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and collective agitator, but also a collective organizer. In this respect it can be compared to the scaffolding erected around a building in construction, it marks the contours of the structure and facilitates communication between the builders, permitting them to distribute the work and to view the common results achieved by their organized labor." Lenin from What Is To Be Done? pg. 202 (Chinese edition)

Comrades the above quote correctly establishes the interrelationship of party building with the task of developing and disseminating a newspaper. Now that the BWC has finally decided to develop a revolutionary communist newspaper of the Iskra type, we can happily state that the first part of this task is practically off the ground; i.e. the development of a skeleton staff, format and content for the first issue of "The Communist" have all been completed. Comrades can expect to see it by the last week of August.

However, in order to complete this task, we must now draw on the consciousness and resources of the entire organization; specifically for the building of a network for distribution, gathering of information, writing of articles and development of correspondence from among cadre, advanced workers and other sincere revolutionary forces.

In order to grasp the essence of this task, it is probably necessary to establish clearly what our newspaper is. "The Communist" is a collective propagandist, a collective agitator, and collective organizer. It will address itself to the training of propagandist and agitators. It will wage ideological struggle against right and left deviations within the communist movement, and against all the lies and distortions of Marxism-Leninism presently being pushed by the RU and the CL. It will present clear precise analyses of the political trends and developments throughout the world. It will give communist education to the advanced workers, revolutionaries, and will attempt to give correct direction to the mass movement. "The Communist" will focus on four (4) main areas, and these will be reflected in sections: A) The communist movement (in which we will deal with new developments, criticism and self-criticism and ideological struggle), B) Trade Union Work (developments, analysis, political direction), C) Political events (national and international, including the Black Liberation Movement), D) Party life (or something similar, this will deal with internal developments, training, P.E., correspondence, etc). The first issue will include an introduction, a political and economic report, a response to the RU attack on the BWC pamphlet and an analysis of the presidential resignation. It will take a while to develop all the sections, so the first few issues will focus on the communist movement and political events.

Clearly comrades, "The Communist" is not simply an internal organ nor a mass newspaper of the "Guardian" type, but a political tool. The main tool by which we will gain hegemony within the communist movement, defeat revisionism, and set the conditions for calling a genuine communist party into being.

We must remember that the BWC has functioned for the last 2 years without a central organ. This has set the conditions for many comrades to belittle the importance of a central organ. We must guard against this tendency. Every cadre, ally and advanced worker must struggle to grasp the importance of "The Communist". During this period the struggle to deepen our grasp of Marxism-Leninism, the struggle to deepen our ties with the working class in order to win the most advanced over to communism, the struggle against revisionism, the struggle to unite with all genuine Marxist-Leninist on the basis of a correct political line are all key to the central task of party building. "The Communist" will be the key weapon in all these struggles.

ORGANIZATION AND CHECK-UP

How shall we organize ourselves to develop this weapon? First of all the District Committee should appoint at least one individual to be responsible for overall central organ work. This comrade should be a D.C. member if possible, (District Committees could appoint someone to the committee for this purpose if necessary), but if impossible, the comrade should have sufficient overview of the district in order to properly direct the work. This comrade will be responsible for:

1. Organizing and directing distribution
2. Gathering information on political trends and developments in the district
3. Supplying articles and graphics for the newspaper
4. Making detailed and consistent reports of the work directly to the C.O.

5. Taking care to integrate workers in all aspects of the work

DISTRIBUTION

Each District Committee will be responsible for and make the final decisions on how distribution will be carried out in its district. Our recommendations are as follows: since each district will have a limited amount of copies we should concentrate them among advanced workers, genuine Marxist-Leninist (rank and file of RU, OL and CL etc), and sincere active revolutionaries (students, intellectuals etc). Cadre and allies should become subscribers. Primary areas of distribution should be inside of the factories and plants where cadre and or allies are. Every effort should be made to reach workers in the key large plants of each district, however district committees will determine if it is politically advantageous to distribute there, next wherever their is known nucleus of active revolutionary forces, this should include service jobs, campuses, mass formations, bookstores, etc, Finally places where recent activity is being covered in the current issue, (even if we've never been there before). Remember the idea is to pick up new readers and subscribers, so once we begin to distribute someplace we should be consistent.

METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION

Wherever possible, cadre* should attempt to distribute inside their plants and develop distributors among the workers. This will aid in the development of factory nuclei and give workers a concrete relationship to the paper. We should encourage students and other revolutionary forces to become distributors on the campus or in their immediate circles. We should encourage subscriptions at all times, this will take the load off local people and insure us of regular readers. We should be as consistent as possible wherever we distribute using the same people and showing up at the same time. This builds confidence and contacts (at plant gates or wherever we should look for the same person who bought the last issue). Districts should acquire a rubber stamp of local P.O. box and put this on the front page; for example: Write to us at PO Box 97655 Detroit, Mich. 48202, this will aid in building contacts.

CORRESPONDENCE

However comrades, our task does not end at distribution. Listen to what Chairman Mao had to say when he was introducing the journal called "The Chinese Worker" in 1940: "The Chinese Worker should become a school for educating the workers and for training cadres from their midst, and the readers will be students. It is necessary to educate many cadres from among the workers, knowledgeable and capable cadres who do not seek empty fame but are ready for honest work. It is impossible for the working class to attain liberation without large numbers of such cadres." From "Introducing the Chinese Worker" SW VOL 2 pg. 403

This means comrades that we do not just sell our newspaper to workers but we should make every effort for them to respond to it and learn from it. Further on Chairman Mao says: "Once started, a journal must be run conscientiously and well. It is very important for the readers to send in suggestions and write brief letters and articles indicating what they like and what they dislike, for this is the only way to make the journal a success." (ibid)

So lets all struggle to make "The Communist" a success, by studying it well, making criticisms and sending letters showing how the paper has aided in our work or clarified an ideological point. Lets all be on the lookout for political developments in our districts, attempt to analyze them and make regular contributions to the C.O. Lets make every effort to develop writers and correspondence from among the workers. The use of the interview method will aid in overcoming the initial unwillingness of workers to write, but as the worker sees his feelings and ideas appear in "The Communist" willingness to struggle to write will develop. Getting workers involved in distribution and correspondence is essential to building that all important network that will eventually form the base of the new Marxist-Leninist Party.

CONCLUSION

Remember comrades the production and distribution of "The Communist" is just like production and distribution in society, each aspect depends on the other and each has a concrete relationship to the other.

*This should include allies and advanced workers

Getting articles, letters and reports in on time is key to getting the newspaper laid out and printed on time. And these mean nothing if distribution is not properly organized and executed. To quote Stalin: "Furthermore, after the correct political line has been laid down, organizational work decides everything, including the fate of the political line itself, its success or failure." (From "On Organization" little Stalin library, pg. 4)

Comrades the building of a central organ is one of the most important steps we've made so far towards the building of a genuine revolutionary communist party in the US, lets take up this task in the true Bolshevik spirit!

DEEPEN OUR GRASP OF MARXISM-LENINISM!
DEEPEN OUR TIES WITH THE WORKING CLASS!
UNITE WITH ALL GENUINE MARXIST-LENINIST!
BUILD THE "COMMUNIST!"
BUILD THE GENUINE ANTI-REVISIONIST COMMUNIST PARTY!

****PLEASE SEND NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMRADE WHO WILL BE DEALING WITH
THE NEWSPAPER IN YOUR DISTRICT****