

Building *Call/EI Clarin* networks in the factories across the nation is a key task in the campaign initiated by the October League to build a weekly Marxist-Leninist newspaper. Discussions at the November *Call* Conference in Chicago brought out the importance of the plant distribution networks which will serve as a basic part of the scaffolding for the new party.

The conference workshop on factory networks centered on questions of why we concentrate on organizing in the factories, what a *Call* network should accomplish, and

“In the past few months we’ve made tremendous advances. Besides factory-gate sales, we distribute over 40 *Calls* in the first few days of the month inside the plant. We have a regular *Call* discussion group where we study Marxism-Leninism and apply it to the conditions in the shop. Workers in the group now take *Calls* in numbers and have become ‘agents’ in building distribution networks in the different departments, collecting information and writing for *The Call*. From building the network, we have consolidated the leadership of a caucus and

## Report from the *Call* Conference

# BUILDING THE CALL IN THE FACTORIES

how to go about initiating and strengthening secret distribution networks.

Participants spoke from their experience in beginning to use *The Call/EI Clarin* inside the plant. They pointed to lessons they had learned about the need to rely on a communist newspaper as a “collective organizer” in all aspects of factory work, in unionizing, in building caucuses, and in winning workers to Marxism-Leninism and the October League.

### GATE SALES INSUFFICIENT

“We used to sell *The Call* only at the gates,” explained one participant, whose practice in many ways summed up the advances being made in factory work throughout the country. “The paper was popular,” he explained, “over 10% of the workers at the plant bought it every month, but we never discussed articles or systematically took up the need to study Marxism-Leninism. We tended to see our work in the union as separate from the distribution of the newspaper.

“While we initiated struggle to build a caucus and had developed close ties with a number of workers, we had not yet consolidated this work. We had not yet brought workers into the ranks of the communist movement or developed an organizational form to unite the more advanced workers within the shop. In analyzing our work, studying Lenin’s *What is to be Done?*, we began to get a firmer grasp of the role of a Marxist-Leninist newspaper, to see the link between the tasks of party-building and those of caucus-building.

have trained workers in Marxism, bringing them actively into the communist movement. Should the people who initiated the network get fired or laid off, the network will not disappear.”

Other examples reflected similar advances. Sales in one East Chicago steel mill went up to 100 after 2 months of struggle to distribute *The Call* to fellow workers. One woman worker in the phone company started reading *The Call* with other workers and within a few months had a study circle and a network of 7 workers who distributed over 50 papers monthly in their departments. In some union caucuses, *The Call* is openly distributed and discussed, and a caucus newsletter in Denver recently reprinted *Call* articles.

### BROADEN MARXISM’S INFLUENCE

By correctly using the paper in plant work, we broaden the influence of Marxism-Leninism among the masses and strengthen the leadership of the workers movement. In this way, we will be able to train and recruit large numbers of workers to the ranks of the communist party.

Distribution networks are key links between a communist party and the masses of working people.

These networks must necessarily be secret, because the bosses in the factories and the imperialists as a class stop at nothing to destroy the workers’ organization, aiming their attacks particularly at the advanced workers and the communists. While secret to the capitalists, however, the networks

# FACTORY NETWORKS...

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must be open to the workers.

The networks must have communist leadership but they should involve as many workers as possible who support the line of the paper and use it in their work. A network cannot survive unless it has a broad circle of sympathizers. Members of the network are agents for the paper, who in turn distribute it, collect information, write articles and initiate new circles.

In *A Letter to a Comrade on Our Organizational Tasks*, Lenin emphasizes how the strength of the whole worker's movement lies in the organization built in the large factories and that a key test of this organization is its ability to carry out "regular work in the distribution of literature and the collection of information and correspondence."

Brought out consistently in the discussions was the fact that these *Call* distribution networks grow through struggle and hard

consistent work. Network building is a protracted task. It requires not only the continual work of communists in factories around the country but in particular the leadership of a communist party. The conference pointed out that while the OL has made important advances in initiating networks, it will be under the leadership of the new party that we will be able to strengthen and expand the factory networks, coordinated by industries and areas.

Repeatedly in discussions at the *Call* Conference, participants pointed to the breakthroughs which had been made when they used *The Call* as the main tool in doing political agitation and when they aimed their work towards building networks. The campaign to build a weekly communist newspaper is a call to root ourselves in the working class and build factory networks. Make every factory a fortress!