

To Build the Party

Every Factory a Fortress!

. . . The main strength of the movement lies in the organization of the workers at the large factories, for the large factories and mills contain not only the predominate part of the working class as regards numbers but even more as regards influence, development, and fighting capacity. Every factory must be our fortress. —V.I. Lenin

The Marxist-Leninist party is organized to insure that it is rooted among the industrial workers. Correspondingly the foundation of every communist party must be the factory nuclei. The factory nuclei are the principal form of party organization within factories. The nucleus is the link between the party and the working class.

It is through the factory nuclei that the Party spreads its influence within the working class, educating the workers about the nature of capitalist exploitation and oppression, mobilizing the workers into direct action against the capitalists and for democracy and socialism. However, simply the formation of the factory nucleus at a particular factory does not automatically mean these tasks are accomplished. It is an extremely difficult and protracted task to actually build the influence of these organizations, especially in the conditions of the U.S.

The emphasis our Party places upon building up factory nuclei stems from the Marxist understanding that industrial workers must be the main and leading force of the revolutionary struggle. Disciplined as a result of their relationship to the means of production, industrial workers are the most consistently democratic and revolutionary. Furthermore, because of their relationship to production, industrial workers have the ability to have the greatest impact upon the course of the revolutionary struggle. Capitalism cannot be ended without the active participation of the workers.

The CPUSA/ML has from its founding recognized the importance of building factory nuclei. It developed a plan of industrial concentration, focusing on the industries of steel, coal, and auto. In the course of this work the Party has met with great difficulties, ranging from anti-communism and other backward sentiments within the working class to the

current severe economic crisis which dispersed many workers and Party cadre from the main industrial plants through layoffs and plant closings.

But in addition to these factors the Party has constantly had to fight against both left and right deviations which have threatened the Party's work in building factory nuclei. The main deviation has been a rightist one, which limits the work of the factory nuclei to militant trade unionism. While the Party must take up the day to day struggles of the workers in the plant over economic and political issues, it must not confine its work to this level. It must constantly strive to educate the workers about the nature of capitalism as a system and about why socialism is the solution to their misery. The workers will not be won to communism unless they are actively won to supporting all issues of democracy and progress which affect the course of the class struggle in the country as a whole.

On the other hand, the factory nuclei have also been influenced at times by leftist deviations. The most common was the inclination to scoff at joining with other active forces in united action against the capitalists. This tended to isolate the Party from the more active workers in the factories and allowed the reformists and revisionists to maintain their influence over these workers.

These deviations, both left and right, hurt the ability of the Party to build up strength within the industrial workers. They have been recognized as such within the Party and patient education and struggle must continue to be waged against them. Connected with this struggle is the battle which must be continuously waged against the opportunist and revisionist influence which negates the importance of organizing the industrial workers.

Despite the difficulties the CPUSA/ML has encountered, its efforts continue to be directed toward building factory nuclei in the large factories, mines, and mills of the U.S. The task of winning the industrial workers away from reformism and revisionism and increasingly from reactionary ideology is a very difficult task. But the CPUSA/ML recognizes that unless it continues to patiently wage the battle, there will be no successful struggle for peace and democracy, let alone a successful battle for socialism waged in the U.S.