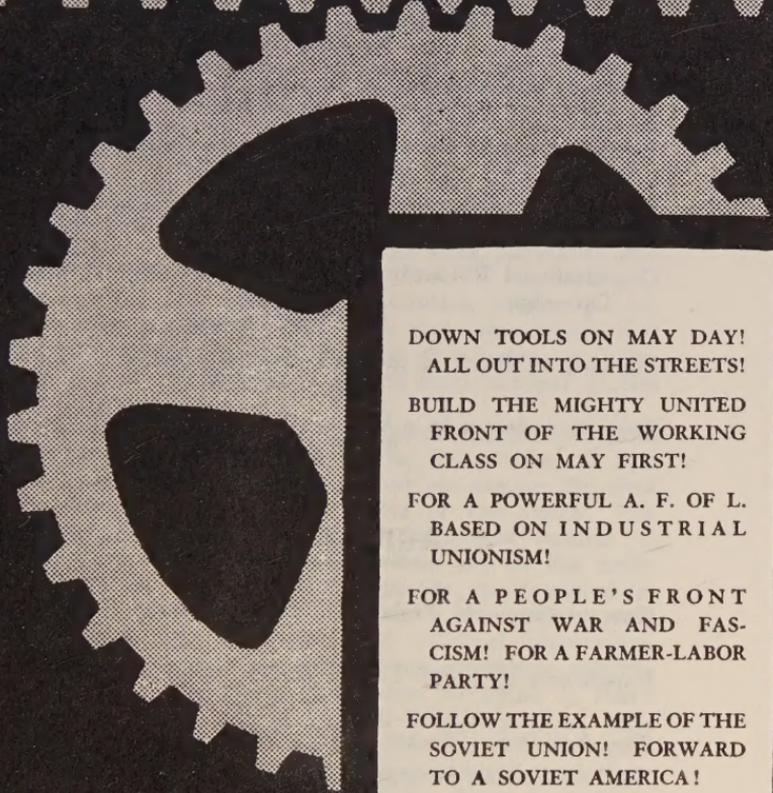


Party Organizer



DOWN TOOLS ON MAY DAY!
ALL OUT INTO THE STREETS!

BUILD THE MIGHTY UNITED
FRONT OF THE WORKING
CLASS ON MAY FIRST!

FOR A POWERFUL A. F. OF L.
BASED ON INDUSTRIAL
UNIONISM!

FOR A PEOPLE'S FRONT
AGAINST WAR AND FAS-
CISM! FOR A FARMER-LABOR
PARTY!

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE
SOVIET UNION! FORWARD
TO A SOVIET AMERICA!

Vol. IX

MAY, 1936

No. 5

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PARTY ORGANIZER

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Active Members, Attention!

THE LAST Central Committee plenum set a goal of 40,000 members in good standing to be attained by the time of the next convention of the Party. On December 31, 1935, we registered nearly 30,000 members. From the month of January to date, nearly 10,000 additional new members joined our ranks. Therefore today our Party should have reached the goal of 40,000 dues-paying members. However, there is still a great discrepancy between the average dues payments and the members enrolled.

The reasons for the still high fluctuation are very well known. We have discussed them time and time again and decided that the solution of this problem lies in the improvement of the life of the units and in the readjustment of the lower organizations.

The readjustments carried out in practically all Districts regarding organizational forms show (as the articles in this issue of the **Party Organizer** prove), that we are on the way toward improving the life and activities of the Party. Yet these improvements did not yet give sufficient results in cutting down fluctuation. This means that one of the main problems to be solved in connection with the improvement of the life of the units (branches, shop units, industrial units, etc.), is an administrative one of highly political importance.

In this respect we must concretize these decisions regarding improvement of the Party apparatus to make it more efficient in checking on attendance and dues payments. The Organizational Departments on a District and Section scale are still involved in all sorts of problems, neglecting their main function. We will succeed in cutting down fluctuation to a minimum not only by improving the apparatus, but by making each active member understand the political significance of regular attendance at unit meetings and regular payment of dues.

Regular dues payments are the barometer of regular attendance, and at the same time indirectly show the activization of the membership. The control established for May will remain just another ordinary control if it is not followed up with a real ideological campaign in the branches,

industrial units, shop units, etc., that will raise the consciousness of every Party member on this question.

Active members must see to it that the problem of attendance and dues payments is discussed in the branches and units: that the branches are organized into groups for the main purpose of increasing attendance and collecting dues. Investigate the reasons for poor attendance at your unit meetings, and find out why some of the Party members are absent. Collect dues in homes if for one reason or another they cannot attend meetings. Such a check-up should be instituted whereby all Party members shall have their membership books stamped up to date.

We are more than sure that we will really go a step further in the solution of the problem the moment the Organizational Departments and unit bureaus will seriously tackle this problem and look upon this question as one of the most important tasks before them. We shall solve it the moment every active Party member will understand that one of his main duties is to see to it that every Party member becomes an active member, attending meetings, and paying dues regularly.

When the Party decides to carry on a campaign, to reach a certain goal—we succeed. We must tackle this problem with the same spirit and Bolshevik determination that lead our activity in other fields. Solving this problem means building the Party.

Active members—on the job! Take upon yourselves the responsibility of helping to solve this serious problem.

Transform the Branches into Live, Fighting Organizations

By MAX STEINBERG, Organizational Secretary,
New York District

THE PARTY in New York is now confronted with a number of problems of organization which require a sound solution if we are to utilize the entire force of our Party and its present influence for the further growth of our Party through more rapid recruiting as a result of our improved mass work in the shops, trade unions and in the neighborhoods. As a result of these problems, we are going through a slow process of reorganization.

Of course, when we speak of Party organization and its problems, the life and activity of the shop nuclei should be

our major concern. In the New York District, most of the shop nuclei present the problem, not so much of fluctuation, but rather of a lack of growth. That is, although we are increasing the number of shop nuclei, the existing nuclei grow entirely too slowly at the present period, which certainly shows that we will have to give the life, activity, and methods of work of our shop nuclei a complete examination.

In recent period we have formed a number of industrial units and branches in the Assembly Districts. During the course of their existence these industrial units have proven conclusively that they are an improvement over the street units. In most of these industrial units fluctuation was checked considerably, recruiting was improved, attendance at meetings increased, and they generally drew in many of the trade union actives into Party life to a much better degree than the street unit was able to do. Of course, here, too, a number of problems arise which the Party will have to seriously face. There is a danger of tending to draw everyone into industrial units rather than to concentrate the efforts of the industrial units on the building of shop nuclei. There is also the danger of withdrawing every one from neighborhood activities. These are problems which the District Committee shall have to deal with, without much delay. At this time, however, we shall discuss the newly formed branches.

We have at present about 40 branches in New York. While we do not know the exact membership of these branches, we can safely assume that we have a membership there of about 2,500, which is a little more than one-fifth of our Party membership throughout the District. When we speak of struggles on local political issues, and the growth of the Party, these branches and their problems become the major concern of our Party.

The Problems in Our Branches

What are the problems in these branches? Branches were formed with the objective of bringing the Party closer to the problems and struggles of the masses in the neighborhoods, and to bring the Party more boldly forward among the people there. This should lead also to an improved inner life, since the life and the struggles of the masses in the neighborhood would become the major concern of the branch as a whole, and of the Party members who live in these neighborhoods. This improvement should of course result in a better attendance at branch meetings, in a reduction of fluctuation, and an increase in recruiting.

In examining some of our branches, we find that with some exceptions, our branches have not yet reached anywhere

near these objectives. In a small number of branches, however, we already do have an encouraging situation. Some branches have assigned a number of their members to local neighborhood organizations, and, as a result of this, the Party has been able to swing important organizations, such as the Parents' Association, clubs, etc., into a struggle against reactionary measures in the various municipal and state legislative bodies around such issues as schools, housing, unemployment, high cost of living, etc.

Some branches, through contact with mass organizations in the neighborhoods and through improved mass work generally, are also becoming a factor in developing the movement for the Farmer-Labor Party in the neighborhoods. These, however, are only beginnings, in a very small number of branches.

In the main, our branches are still looking for a way to penetrate the mass organizations in the neighborhoods, and how best to raise the economic issues of the people in the neighborhood. On the whole, these branches are merely the old unit, with all its negative features magnified on a larger scale. The meetings are still not well planned and prepared. The discussions are abstract. The branch executives are not taking the initiative in fully acquainting themselves with the life and the issues of the neighborhoods and developing the same initiative on the part of every member of the branch, which is something we did expect from these branches.

Attendance of Branches Not Satisfactory

The result is that, in most of our branches, attendance is not satisfactory. Attendance on the average is about 65 per cent, and there is a danger that it will be more difficult to check the fluctuation in these large branches than it was in the small units, where Party members were better known to one another. There is a danger that if the branches permit an attendance of some 65 per cent, in a short time we shall lose a great number of Party members. This can and should be prevented.

The most dangerous part of the situation in the branches is that in most cases the branches are unclear as to how to improve on the present weaknesses. While it is true that the branches, the membership, and the leading committees in the branches have not much experience as yet, however, the fact that in most cases the comrades are thinking along the lines of mechanical schemes of improving the attendance and inner life of the branches proves that there is a danger of the branches becoming merely centers, and not live, active, fighting Communist organizations.

In a Conference of branch executives held in the early part of this month, in the reports and discussions of the executives, with the exception of just one or two branches, the question of strike struggles was hardly touched upon. This at a time when there are strikes taking place daily. The comrades dealt very little with the unemployed struggles in the neighborhood. These facts show a definite danger of our branches becoming merely centers, divorced from the economic and political struggles of the workers.

As to local neighborhood issues, we have some 60,000 houses in the City of New York that violate the Multiple Dwelling Law passed by the Board of Aldermen. These apartments house 1,750,000 people. This is certainly an issue concrete enough for our Party to take hold of and around which to mobilize the neighborhood. Yet as far as we know, none of our branches have gone into the neighborhoods and developed a movement for the enforcement of the Multiple Dwelling Law.

There is the United Parents' Association in the City of New York which at present has 212 local associations with an enrolled membership of 120,000 families. These organizations are of key importance in the City of New York. So far this organization is controlled by Tammany Hall, and only in a few of the associations did our Party come forward. These few comrades, a handful in the associations, brought about a change in the attitude and approach of the associations toward the problem of overcrowding in the schools, feeding the children, restoring wage cuts to the teachers, etc.

The questions of housing, schools, and the problem connected with them, added to the issues raised by the trade unions and the unemployed, make the key factors in the economic and political life of the community.

While these issues, if properly dealt with by our branches, may become a powerful weapon in the hands of our Party for the development of the movement for a united front, the Labor Party, and for the growth of our Party, our branches in the main are still looking for topics for discussion and are trying to solve the question of growth and consolidation of our Party by some unclear formulae of group and captain systems, which only results in the branches spending nights discussing issues of how to bring the members to the meeting and what to do, instead of discussing issues properly presented by the Executives.

How Should the Branches Function?

Are we as yet clear as to how the branches should function? This was discussed many times in the District Com-

mittee, as well as in the Section Committees of the Party, and in the main there is clarity in the leading bodies as to how the branches should function. The trouble is that we are not giving sufficient guidance to the comrades at this critical moment in the life of these new branches so that they can start off on a healthy and sound footing. We have to recognize that we have rushed too quickly into the formation of these branches. Instead of the Section Committee carefully examining the forces in a couple of units, discussing it at length with the comrades, and then merging two units into a branch of some 50 or 60 members, with a good, strong leadership, many of the Sections lumped together three or four units into a branch of 80 or 90, or in some cases even 100 members, without knowing beforehand the comrades who would assume the leadership, at least at the beginning. This is the first error.

The second error is that we formed more than one branch in a Section which resulted in a situation where some Sections now have three or four branches with a membership of some 80 to 100 members each, not having established beforehand a strong leadership, and not being able to give the guidance that the Section Committee could have given had there been only one branch, carefully and properly organized. I am certain that in the ranks of our Party in the branches, there are a sufficient number of developed Party members that can become able and effective leaders of our Party. However, these comrades at the beginning need the full assistance and absolute guidance of the Section Committees.

It is therefore necessary at this time to stop the further building of the branches, reduce the number of the membership in each branch to about 50, and for the Section Committee to assign the most experienced, leading people to work with the executive. The Executive Committees of the branches should be developed to a point where the Executives take full initiative in dealing with the problems of the working and toiling population in the neighborhoods, with the life of the mass organizations, to develop struggles, and present these questions to the branch in such a manner as to make a live, interesting meeting, drawing in every Party member into activity around these issues and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and understanding so that they become leaders of the masses in the neighborhoods.

As for the groups, this matter should be simplified to the greatest extent possible. All that is necessary is to have a captain over five, six, or eight comrades living as close as possible to one another, and that captain to visit the members each week, before the meeting, trying to induce them to come to the meeting, and if a member cannot be present,

simply pick up his book, see that his dues are paid and bring it back to him during the week.

We can look forward to these branches in our Party becoming a real factor in the daily life and struggles in the neighborhood, especially during the election campaign, and for the building of the Farmer-Labor Party. But this will happen only if our Section Committees realize the great possibilities that these branches have, on the one hand, the dangers that we are faced with, on the other.

Building Party Branches in the City of Boston

By **GEORGE BLAKE**, District Organizational Secretary

WE FORMERLY had twelve units in the city of Boston. They were small in size and functioned poorly. Attendance fluctuated and only a few comrades could be relied upon to carry out sustained activity in the neighborhood. New members were easily discouraged. In short, the Party unit consisted of a loose group of comrades, many of them hard-working, but completely isolated from the community. It played no role of any importance in the neighborhood. In most cases, its existence was known only to the workers who had been contacted with the **Daily Worker**. Hence, the popular conception prevailed that the Party was a small, conspiratorial outfit, working in dark alleys, distributing "subversive literature," afraid and incapable of meeting the workers face to face.

The Lack of Party Participation

First, in the November elections to the City Council of Boston, the Party neglected to run candidates for office from the wards. True, the District was extremely negligent in failing to make preparations. Fundamentally, the failure to run ward candidates was because of the complete isolation of the Party organizations from local and community politics. The units were not organized on the basis of a political sub-division. They were not organized to plan activities on a ward scale, to search into political questions that interested the workers, etc. Yes, Coughlin, Townsend, etc., organized in the wards, participated actively in the elections, caught the imagination of many thousands of workers, and flourished. Our perspective, inevitably formed by working in small units, was narrow. We watched the procession go by.

Hence, election came and went, with no Party participa-

tion and a heavy loss of prestige among many class-conscious workers who were denied political expression. We learned a great deal. A good campaign could have been organized in a number of wards on the basis of the gas-rate campaign initiated by the Party and the Working Women's Council, just as the "boycott" of the election subsequently weakened the campaign.

The Lenin Memorial Meeting

The second experience was the splendid Lenin Memorial Meeting held in Boston Symphony Hall on January 20. The meeting inspired the Party. Whereas all previous affairs had been held in small, usually dingy halls, accommodating a maximum of 700 people, the Lenin meeting was held in the finest hall of its size in the city. Twenty-seven hundred people crowded into the auditorium and roared their approval of Comrade Browder's speech. Over one thousand people were turned away. No room. The meeting had created quite a stir in the city. **The Boston American** (Hearst) organized a vicious campaign against the holding of the meeting, and tried to have it cancelled. We mobilized well and defeated every attempt of Hearst to stop the meeting. The Party no longer felt itself a small, impotent force in Boston. It no longer considered itself a body in full retreat. We were speaking openly to the masses, proud of our program, proud and confident of our Party.

We decided, following these two opposite experiences, to act and reorganize the Party units into branches on the basis of the proposals made by the Central Committee at the November Plenum. The change was completed in February. Branches of thirty-five to fifty members were organized in South Boston, West End, South End, Roxbury, and Dorchester. On the whole, the reorganization was welcomed by the Party membership. Ward maps suddenly appeared on the walls of branch headquarters. In some branches, discussions were held on the local political machine, its connections with the Mansfield and Curley machines, its roots in the neighborhood clubs, churches, and other organizations, composition of the ward population, issues, etc. These discussions helped to make the Party comrades conscious of conditions in the neighborhood and the key organizations to penetrate (in one branch, the comrades because of extreme isolation, were compelled to search the telephone book to determine the organizations in their community!)

The life of the new branches is generally superior to that of the old units. The size alone has helped to liven up the meetings. There is more spirit, a greater feeling of confidence, will to do, and potential strength. In several branches,

plans are being made to organize neighborhood forums (Roxbury), to issue a regular bulletin, (West End), and conduct study circles during the spring and summer (Dorchester). The open branch meetings are more attractive to the newcomer, particularly to the American worker who very often cordially disliked the small unit. Recruiting is easier. There are a number of other favorable features which have been cited in the Party publications which also apply to the branches in Boston (see article in March **Party Organizer**, report on Ninth Assembly District Branch).

On the whole, to sum up the positive results to date, the branch is unquestionably a superior form for neighborhood work on the basis of present conditions.

The Lack of Mass Activity in the Neighborhoods

On the other hand, the branches have not yet solved the decisive problem of **organized mass activity** in the neighborhoods. In fact, the orientation is almost exclusively inward. The mass work is still carried out by a few leading comrades as before and not organized and planned by the branch itself. As a result, the Party membership in the branch is isolated from actual developments. In the West End a few comrades initiated a movement to compel the city to build a Youth Center to serve the youth of the West End and North End. A conference was organized under the auspices of the West End and North End Joint Planning Boards (semi-official bodies) at Faneuil Hall on April 5. Over sixty organizations responded! Some comrades in the branch helped to contact youth clubs, churches, etc., but the campaign was and is not the campaign of the branch. This movement has broad popular support in these densely populated proletarian districts. It responds to a real and vital need of the youth. The movement is not now gaining the necessary momentum. Only a few comrades are active on top, only two or three comrades are in the principal community organizations. Last summer the same comrades initiated a splendid struggle for a beach and playground on the Charles River. The campaign set in motion thousands of adult and young workers. The politicians were forced at the end to get on the band wagon and support the campaign. Victory was won and the city appropriated \$40,000 for the project! The Youth Council set up during the campaign, loosely organized, fell apart even prior to the victory. No real attempt was made by the Party and the Y.C.L. to penetrate the key organizations, particularly of the youth.

In the South End, last May, a few comrades initiated the Provisional Committee for Equal Opportunities. The movement grew rapidly and culminated in the Eastern New

England Congress on February 9, attended by 150 delegates from 89 organizations, 65 of which were Negro organizations. A resolution to organize a people's party on the program of the Congress was unanimously endorsed. **The Boston Chronicle**, a local Negro newspaper, which had for a long time taken a hostile attitude to the work of the local committee, was obliged to characterize the Congress as a "stirring event". The N.A.A.C.P. now sends an official delegate to the bi-weekly meetings of the Congress. The prestige of the movement is considerable. Over 400 Negro people crowded into Ebenezer Church on March 16 to hear reports from the delegates that attended the National Negro Congress. On the platform were ministers who had either been indifferent or antagonistic in the past. The manager of the local bank made the collection appeal.

The Party branch, with a membership of fifty, is, however, isolated from these developments. We are beginning to reach literally thousands of Negro workers for the first time through this splendid movement and hence it is imperative that our comrades in the South End branch join the youth clubs, churches, and settlement houses, etc., to strengthen and spread the influence of the Congress. To correct this situation, a leading comrade in this work led a discussion at the branch on the present work of the Congress and following this, the Executive Committee then assigned 14 comrades to work in different organizations in the South End. The branch has now an objective. It is no longer simply a center for the sale of Party literature. The work of the comrades in the organization is tied up with the immediate campaigns of the Congress. The whole life of the branch, including problems of inner organization (education, division of tasks, etc.) now has content. Each member now feels that he is part of a mass movement.

In Roxbury, Dorchester, and South Boston, the Party branches are even more removed from the neighborhood. At a recent open meeting of the Dorchester branch which the writer attended, the routine affairs were discussed and disposed of with commendable efficiency. Not one single word on the problems and issues of Dorchester! Blindfolded, the writer would not have guessed what branch was meeting. It might have been a branch in Oshkosh. Another instance of similar character, again a product of long isolation, was a discussion held on the united front in the West End branch about a month ago. The discussion was excellent throughout. Practically all the comrades participated. Fine! Later in the meeting, however, when the comrades discussed the reorganization of the West End Neighborhood Assembly (an unemployed organization which did excellent work last year), and its plans to send a delegate to the Unity Convention in Wash-

ington, not one comrade (out of 30) proposed approaching the local Socialist Party for united action in sending the delegate, and launching a branch of the Workers' Alliance. And the discussion earlier in the evening had been on the united front!

This isolation is expressed in still another and a more significant form. The Party in Boston recruited in the first quarter of 1936 **four times** what it had recruited in the same period in 1935. The recruitment, however, did not come from the organized activity of the Party branches. Under these circumstances, we cannot speak of Party growth. The danger of fluctuation increases, and in fact the average attendance at branch meetings is 50 per cent of the membership.

Establishing a City Committee

In order to tackle this whole situation, we have set up in Boston (eliminating Sections which were useless barriers in these circumstances) a City Committee of the Party, consisting of the leading representatives from the branches and industrial units. The City Committee is responsible for planning the political and organizational activity of the Party branches in Boston. Formerly, the units carried out their activity on the basis of general directives from the District, which, in many cases, the comrades did not know how to apply locally. The lower organizations were removed by a great distance from the Party leadership. This has accounted for much of the confusion and some of the stagnation of the old units and the new branches. Now the comrades from the branches participate in hammering out a line of action on a city and community scale. A thorough educational campaign is being planned. In June, a special Boston training school will be held for 25 picked students to train as Branch organizers, trade union leaders, educational cadres, etc. In the garment strike, our comrades were among the most militant pickets, but were not leaders. We have a strong fraction in the C.L.U., but no comrade undertakes to speak. Socialist Party and progressive trade unionists take the floor on the Farmer-Labor resolution, our comrades are mute. We have a rapidly growing membership in Boston, as well as in the entire District. Education and training are vital.

A Review of the Cleveland Shop Units

By HELEN ALLISON

WHEN Cleveland is mentioned, one immediately thinks of heavy industry—steel and auto. There has been some

good agitational and organizational work done to make Cleveland a union town. This has had a good effect upon the working population of the city. Union activities are intense, both in industries where craft unions are organized and in the mass production industries. In many union locals Party and progressive people have won positions as leaders. There is a good progressive group functioning in the Cleveland Federation of Labor. Our Party fraction there is now organized.

With such a situation existing, one would expect our shop work to be of good quality. One would expect our shop units to be in a position to play a leading role in all shop and union activities. The work of our shop units should be a decisive factor in all work that the Party conducts and participates in Cleveland.

Instead of this, in a recent review of our shop work, we found that, with a few rare exceptions, our shop units cannot record progress. In fact the activity of many units has declined, and a few units have completely fallen apart.

It is necessary to analyze why such a situation exists in a territory where shop work and our industrial concentration should be the center of all activity. The fault lies directly with the District and Section Committees. For a long period of time, little or no attention was paid to our existing shop units, or organizational work conducted for establishing new units. From past experience, we know that unless we work regularly with shop units, assisting them in developing activities in the shop, in their union work, in political discussions, then that concrete leadership, so essential in day-to-day organizational work, is completely lacking.

A few brief facts concerning some of our units will show the main weaknesses, the inadequacy of our work in the recent period, and what points must be concentrated on in order to assure the basic improvement that is necessary.

In our steel units, particularly, there is great carelessness in recruiting. We find that when new members come into the Party, they do not always know they have joined a political organization. They think they have joined a secret leading caucus of the union. They join so that they will be "in the know" on all union matters.

Deep rooted sectarianism—Party members in the shop, in the company union, not knowing the sentiment of workers in the shop! In Republic steel, a non-Party worker called a mass meeting of workers in the shop. He went to the Auto Council for assistance. A worker in the Auto Council informed the Party Section about this mass meeting; this information did not come from the shop unit because they knew nothing about it.

Our Party members, all working in one department, are isolated from the workers in other departments. Previously one of our comrades, recently laid off, although foreign born, made it his business to eat lunch with the American and skilled workers daily. In this way he always knew the sentiment of those outside his department and the work of the unit could be planned on the basis of its knowledge of this sentiment.

In our Otis unit, some of our comrades have leading posts in the union, but the Party unit does not lead the work of this lodge. The slate worked out by the unit for elections did not go through because the comrades did not attend the union meeting when elections took place. Here we have a shop unit of 25, with usually a maximum of 10 attending unit meetings.

While there are some difficulties in organizing the meetings because of frequent shifting of working hours, better attendance could be secured if a consciousness for Party work was developed among the comrades. There are at least six more Otis workers in the Party in street units, who would rather leave the Party than be transferred into the shop unit. In their territorial branches they feel a direct contact with their language mass organizations, and they feel that joining the shop unit would completely separate them from their friends and work there. This shows, also, the sectarian nature of our language mass work, and the failure of our leading comrades there to develop the Party membership under their leadership for shop activity. Instead, main attention is given to work in small sectarian mass organizations.

Two years ago, we organized a nucleus in a government shop with four comrades. In one year's time the membership was quadrupled. Before any matters were brought into the union, they were planned and discussed in the unit. As a result of consistent work, positions were gained in the union.

Then the comrades felt that their task was fulfilled. For the past year the unit has not grown nor expanded in influence. Now the comrades have begun seriously to discuss the matter of recruiting new people into the Party, carrying on at the same time that basic political activity that is necessary so that the Party members can talk intelligently to the other workers in the shop on the current events of the day.

There are large numbers of Negro workers in this industry, and particularly good work has been done in recruiting Negro workers into the Party, the majority of the unit being made up of Negro comrades.

Typical of poor shop work is an example of a railroad unit. Two non-Party, foreign-born workers were fired and immediately publicity went out from the management to the effect that we were now rid of the "foreign agitators". Not a sound came from the shop unit.

Until then shop papers were issued regularly, and distributed inside by members of the shop unit at the same time that other comrades distributed them outside. Recruiting was consistent. Now for many months the shop unit has not met. No paper is distributed; the voice of the Party is silent. He calls a meeting of the comrades and does not attend himself. The laxity of one individual has entirely disrupted our Party work in this important railroad center.

Some of our Party members in the shops are known as Reds. As soon as a minimum of Party work is started, individuals are spotted and they go out of the shop; the work stops. This shows the necessity of working in such a way that the workers know who we are, but the bosses do not. There is no need to announce from the housetops who we are, but by daily work in union organizational work, individual discussions with workers showing the political implications of all current events, concrete proposals to the workers on how basically to improve their economic needs —by performing such simple tasks our shop workers will become popular and well-known among their fellow-workers without putting themselves in a position to be fired.

Probably one of the worst examples of the underestimation of our Party work in the shop is to be found in one of our key auto shops. Here we have a good group of active Party members and leaders in the union. But they are so taken up with union problems, so busy with the important details of union organization, that the Party is completely forgotten as far as concrete work in the shop is concerned. The comrades work individually, and not collectively as an organized political force in the shop. The result is ineffective Party work, with emphasis on union organization only.

These facts and examples are enough to give a picture of our shop work. Important for the improvement of this work are very simple tasks which we have spoken about numerous times before. The situation in the shop units must immediately become the concern of the section committees. Discussions on each shop unit must be held separately, leading comrades working with each unit to assist it in improving its work. Comrades in the units, who are not involved in union work, should immediately set themselves the task of attending union meetings regularly, becoming a force in the union. They must assist in the solution of the economic problems before the workers. Comrades active in the unions

should not consider that this is sufficient. They should have a broader perspective. They should see ahead and realize that they are an important factor in our task of winning the majority of the working class for the Communist way out. At the same time, it must be remembered that our shop work cannot be developed in stages—first establishment of union activity, and then Party work. Both must be developed simultaneously.

Our comrades leading the work in the language field must consider the work of our comrades in the shops as the most important phase of our Party language work. Particularly is this important because of the large percentage of foreign born workers who live in Cleveland and work in the basic industries.

Well organized, regular unit meetings, with good political life, will raise the consciousness of all comrades in shop nuclei for the fulfilment of our tasks. With concrete attention paid by the Section Committees and leading comrades from the District, we can easily come out of our slump in shop work and once again make it the center of our Party work.

Activity and Experiences of the Party Unit in a Mining Town

By R. SHAW, Southern Illinois

THE EXPERIENCES of the town unit in T. prove that there is an opportunity for our Party to penetrate the mining, industrial and farming communities and become a political factor in the life of the masses. The town of T. is located in a mining and farming area and is a typical community in the Middle West. Before the crisis this town had a population of 2,500, with one mine and a smelting plant. Since 1929 the smelter has been shut down and a number of families have moved out while others remained unemployed. Those employed are working in a nearby mine which employs about 200 miners; a dozen or so miners from the town travel back and forth to work at a large mine about 20 miles away.

The composition of the population is approximately 50 per cent American and the rest predominantly Slavic and Italian.

The unit in this town was organized two years ago through an Unemployment Council contact. It consisted of five mem-

bers, all young fellows (average age 30 years), four unemployed and one an employed miner. During the two years of its existence the unit recruited about 20 members, of which 15 remained in the Party. The unit is now composed of three miners, six unemployed, one farmer, three women, one mechanic and one clerk. In the course of its activity the unit extended its influence gradually so that today it has forces in every organization in town. For example, on the town administration there are five Party followers of which two are Party Town Council members. Members are active and in the leadership of such local bodies as the Fire Department, baseball club, two fraternal lodges, Parent-Teachers' Association, Trade and Labor Union of the W.P.A. workers and Women's Auxiliary branch.

During the past two years the unit has established itself so that today the workers of the town consider the Communists not only good fighters for their needs or an organized force but capable leaders as well. When certain issues or problems come up the townspeople are accustomed to ask: What do the Communists think and what do they propose? Likewise, the Republican and Democratic representatives recognize and deal with the Communists not only as an opposition but as representatives of the people who follow them. In other words the unit has grown to a position where it has become a factor in the life of the people in this community.

How was this increase in the quantitative and qualitative composition of the unit brought about?

In the first place, when the unit was first organized, while lacking many fundamental points of clarity, it seemed to understand and grasp one principle, namely: that in order to overthrow capitalism, it is necessary to win leadership of the masses by showing the people that we Communists are fighting not only for the whole loaf but also for a bigger loaf **today**. In the course of its activity on various local and county issues the unit led and participated in a series of struggles of the unemployed, for civil rights in the county, etc. It also participated in two local elections and one county and state election campaign. It is true the struggle was not always conducted properly, mistakes were made, but the unit was always to be found where the masses were in motion. For example, there was great antagonism against a Democratic committeeman in this town. The workers had many grievances against him. As the unit was new, they reacted to this by supporting another so-called "progressive" for committeeman on a Democratic ticket, with the result that two months later the comrades had to fight the very same fellow whom they had previously supported. As a result of their own experiences and activity the membership

has been convinced of two important things which are necessary for decisive leadership.

1. They must always be conscious of, participate in, and have a positive program for all the needs of the people in their town. This means not just a slogan of what is not to be done, but primarily how and what is to be done. For example, when the school children needed better washroom facilities, the Party unit not only made proposals as to how such facilities could be obtained but several members devoted time and work to put these proposals into action. Another example: last summer there were apples for sale at a special price in the county seat but it was necessary to have a truck to go for them. The unit got a truck and sent a comrade to get them and every family in the town got a proportional share, which was very much appreciated. Another example of how to take into consideration even the smallest issue is shown by the unit's work last Christmas. A special fund for candy was allotted in the county to the kids in the various towns. The comrades went there, got the candy and distributed it to every family.

2. To broaden our influence. To accomplish this, the comrades found it necessary to join those organizations which were already established, such as lodges, clubs, the parent-teacher association, etc. It was through the unit's activity in the latter organization that the women of the town supported and voted for their candidates in the election. The unit also discovered that it was not enough only to be good baseball fans to get the full support of the young people but that it was also necessary to become active builders of the baseball club.

How This Unit Functions

There is a functioning bureau of three comrades. The work is divided according to the organizations in the town to which one or more comrades are assigned. The unit meets regularly. Before the unit meeting, the Bureau usually discusses the order of business, although sometimes when no important issues are pending the Bureau meets only a few minutes before or during the period when the members pay dues, which is usually before the regular business is opened. In this way the dues question is settled before the regular meeting. In addition to the regular campaigns which are sometimes brought to the unit through a representative of the Section, but which usually come through the mail, there is always a point on the local situation, and reports as to what is going on in various organizations and in the town. Thus, the unit not only keeps in touch with the activities of the town but it also knows which issues to raise and how

to react to the different problems that the workers bring out in the general talk or in the discussion. When the business part of the meeting is over, which usually takes from one hour to two hours, the unit has an educational discussion on the basis of outlines sent out by the Section or else they discuss some important event from the **Daily Worker**. No matter how great the problems or difficulties, the unit meetings are not heavy nor do they drag with routine; they are lively and interwoven with working-class humor and a healthy outlook.

The unit is conscious of its responsibility. If anything comes up in town they get together at once and work out the policy to be followed. The unit members try to help one another as well as their fellow-workers in town. If one of them is sick or needs help they do their best to help him. Thus the life of the unit is that of a collective family. Sometimes they invite each other for dinner on Sundays and whole families get together. They hold the highest regard for one another and in this way their exemplary conduct raises the esteem of other workers for the Party.

The unit issues leaflets on every important development and holds a mass meeting now and then. One of the outstanding agitational features is that this unit has been publishing a town paper regularly for a year. By linking the national issues with local problems, news, and activities the town paper has become the recognized voice of the whole community.

In united front work, the unit has very comradely relationship with the Socialists; in 1934 the unit initiated a joint election campaign with the Socialists and there is now a joint committee for the building of the Farmer-Labor Party. During the last month a local Farmer-Labor Party has been organized to which all of the town organizations are affiliated. This movement has broadened out on a country-wide scale and thus far all of the miners' locals and the unemployed organizations in the county have endorsed the Farmer-Labor Party. They are now preparing a conference to establish a County Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party and to put into motion the work of putting up candidates for the coming elections.

The weaknesses of the unit can be summarized as follows: Although mass agitation is carried out there are very few mass meetings and no systematic mass education, such as open forums, etc. The unit has held only one school session in two years and one member has attended the District school, but aside from this there has been no further theoretical grounding of the membership. The unit does not participate enough in social activity. While the members are active in initiating dances, entertainments, etc., in other lodges to

which they belong, they do not plan such social activity for the Party, independently. There is also a laxity in the proper division of the work, a tendency for few members to do everything. This accounts for the small membership and slow recruiting.

A Plan to Broaden the Party

In the past two years we have tried to separate the miners in this unit from the town unit, but somehow this has not worked out so well. It seems that all of the problems are so interlinked that a town unit should include the miners. The activity of this unit also shows the need for building the Party on a county scale. During the recent struggles which this unit led, it found that while the workers of the town were ready to go forward they came up against the opposition of the county authorities and they lacked support from the workers of other towns. There are three other units in the county but so far they have not been connected organizationally on a county scale and experience shows that the county authorities have been able to defeat the workers precisely because there was no leadership rallying the workers and unifying their actions on a county scale.

Therefore in order to remedy the weakness of the unit and to broaden the work of the Party the following plan has been proposed: That the unit increase the members of the bureau and create a Town Executive Committee which shall meet twice a month. The town unit is to have two meetings a month, one of which shall be an open meeting in the hall and the other a closed membership meeting. To extend the Party organization into other towns of the county and link themselves with the other three units in the county by forming a County Committee with a chairman and secretary. To issue a county bulletin.

Organizational Readjustments and the Wisconsin Election Campaign

By **ELMER LOCKNER**, Organizational Secretary,
Wisconsin District

OUR PARTY in the Wisconsin District began a serious discussion last December based on the Central Committee discussions of some of our sectarian organizational practices. The work in the trade unions, the Workers' Alliance, the work for

the united front, the work in the newly-born Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation, the increased attention given to municipal and county politics—these topics placed in clear perspective the need for some adjustments of our organizational forms. The first change consisted in reorganizing the Party on a ward basis in a number of important wards in the city of Milwaukee.

Until the February sixteenth County Convention there existed three Sections in Milwaukee County. At that convention these three Sections were amalgamated into one central Party organization for the county. A County Committee of 25 members was elected, including a secretariat of three. They were: an Executive Secretary, a Chairman, and an Educational Director. The District or State Committee remains the highest committee of the state, with a secretariat consisting of a state executive secretary, an organizational secretary, and an educational director. The District Bureau or State Executive Board, as it is now termed, is also the Executive Board of Milwaukee County. The County Educational Director is also the Educational Director for the state. The County Executive Secretary is the Organizational Secretary for the state. The Milwaukee County Committee meets every two weeks; in the alternate weeks it holds meetings with the unit and branch educational directors.

The broadening out of our shop and trade union work necessitated the liquidation of the Trade Union Commission and the substitution of shop conferences. Much of the work formerly handled by the trade union commission is now handled directly in newly formed industrial units. The emphasis of the work of the educational commission, and this is the only commission existing in the county, has likewise been changed from narrow meetings to broad bi-monthly discussions with the unit and branch educational directors. The educational commission has in this way been able to follow a policy of concentration on the most important ward branches.

As a result of the organizational readjustments, the Party has been able to draw the best forces from the three old, weak section committees into one central leading political body, the County Committee. Under the old set-up with the arbitrary territorial section divisions, most of the Section Committee members did not participate in the working out of policies which necessarily applied to the whole of Milwaukee city or county. Only those Section functionaries who happened to be District Bureau members participated in discussions of policy, etc., for the political territories of the city or county.

Instead of relying upon three separate meetings of the Section Committees followed by three separate meetings with

unit and branch organizers (which were occupied in the main with the routine of dispensing leaflets, literature, dues and assignments for mobilizations for certain campaigns, etc.), we now have the regular bi-monthly County Committee meetings. To these are invited unit and branch organizers who may not be members of the County Committee, and members of certain fractions, depending on the nature of the agenda of the particular meetings. The County Committee serves not only as the leading political body, but also as the executive body of the county. This enables it to carry through, without duplicating their work, the political and organizational mobilization of the Party for the various campaigns.

The County Committee agenda usually consists of a maximum of three points with a separate discussion on each. The last half-hour before adjournment is given over to the distribution of materials, leaflets, literature, dues, etc. The elections were on the agenda for each meeting of the County Committee for the duration of the campaign. Special efforts were directed, through our fractions, to the mobilization of the trade unions and the Workers' Alliance for work in the elections. For this, our individual trade union members and alliance fractions were regularly brought into the County Committee meetings for the discussions on the elections. Similarly, in the mobilization of the sympathetic language groups the various leading fractions were brought into the meetings. In this way, without burdening the membership of the Party with a whole series of separate fraction meetings, we were able to get excellent results in the form of numerous resolutions on the building of the Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation in trade union locals, Workers' Alliance branches, various fraternal societies, etc.

Several language clubs in the South Slav field, which formerly were the incarnation of sectarianism, sent delegations from their organizations to participate officially in the work of existing Federation campaign committees. At the present time they are following up this work with the arrangement of informal discussions with groups of Socialists. The Party branches in a number of wards had a 100 per cent mobilization of their membership for work in the campaign. The Party branches in about ten wards in the city sent official delegations to the Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation campaign headquarters and Socialist ward branch headquarters. In the Negro district one comrade was elected, as a Communist, to the secretaryship of the campaign committee for a Negro Federation candidate for County Supervisor. In other wards a number of comrades were added to existing campaign committees. Regular daily contact with the ward

campaigners was made. The Party membership was mobilized and worked energetically distributing the **Socialist Campaigner** and other campaign supplies and at the same time they were able to distribute our Party campaign materials and to sell a number of special orders of the **Sunday Worker** and the **Daily Worker** with special Milwaukee features. In this way we reached, with our agitation, the most active participants in the election campaign.

It is significant that in spite of the slanderous attacks against our Party by Hoan and his colleagues, for the first time in many years, in two local Communist Party sponsored anti-war and election rallies, we were able to secure Socialist Party speakers, one of them was a candidate in the elections, and the other a ward branch secretary. Because of this close friendly working relationship and almost daily contact with the most active campaign workers, our Party statements and our independent Party rallies reached many more Socialists and trade unionists than in any of the campaigns of the Party in the past. It is precisely this work which enabled us to convince the main mass of the membership of the Socialist Party of our complete sincerity and to expose the Old Guardist maneuvers of Hoan.

To sum up: in the recent campaign we were able to achieve swifter mobilization of our forces than at any time previously, with keen political initiative and a maximum of alertness and responsibility by both the units and branches. This was made possible by the direct exchange of experiences of the units and branches throughout the entire Party, as well as the best possible utilization of many comrades who were formerly occupied with work duplicated twice over by individuals in other Sections. Much of the old "transmission loss", which formerly occurred in the transmission of decisions from the District Bureau discussions through the meetings of section organizers, section committees and finally to the unit organizers' meetings was eliminated.

In the process of carrying through these organizational adjustments there occurred for a time a lessening of attention to a number of the weaker units in the more remote parts of the county. Certain temporary difficulties arose in the division of work and responsibility within the Secretariat with a tendency to base such division on the territories which formerly corresponded to the sphere of work of individual members of the Secretariat. At the present time, after only two months of experience, these weaknesses are already rapidly giving way before the growth of independent political responsibility of the branch and unit leadership.

Learning to Work in the Auto Locals

By J. WILSON, Detroit District

A REVIEW of the work of our shop units will bring to the fore the burning problem facing them—that of recruiting American-born shop workers. This must be done if the units are to play their necessary decisive and important role. An examination of the work of the shop units shows that where the composition is native-born and the units are given personal guidance and assistance in their work, there activity is being carried on in close to Bolshevik style.

The following is a survey of the work of unit A: In this unit we have ten comrades, the oldest 29 years of age, the rest ranging down to 22. They are all American born. The first reason for the good functioning of this unit is that every member is an **active** member of the trade union in the shop. The comrades attend these local meetings religiously and participate in the general life of the union. They look upon this not as an additional meeting, but as a basis for carrying through the current campaigns of the Party. The leadership of this local, although workers from the shop, have been tied for a long time to the reactionary leadership of the union; therefore the comrades had to have a clear picture of their role and activity so as to put the leadership on the "spot", for example, on such issues as the Committee on Industrial Organization. For several weeks our comrades agitated among the individual members on the importance of the C.I.O. Then, when they thought the time was ripe, they called for a C.I.O. representative to speak at the local. There were some objections, but when a vote was taken, the C.I.O. representative was invited to speak.

In this unit the comrades have learned to be bold, not in the sense of a bull in a china-shop, but to impress the membership regarding their ability to stick by their guns. For example, on several issues that came up which we knew beforehand that we had very little chance of winning out on, we were able, by taking the floor on these issues, to win many to our side. Although we lost numerically (by votes) we won people to our side who respected us. For instance, one worker when approached as to whether he wanted to read the book **What Is Communism?** answered: "I don't want anything of any 'isms', but I respect your attitude on issues in the local, so maybe I had better read the book." Many of our comrades say that it is very hard to recruit from the locals, but the following is our experience: by taking the position we did on several problems that came up in the local,

we found that although these workers did not openly support us, after the meeting they expressed themselves favorable to us. From these after-meeting gatherings we have been able to establish a study group of twelve from which we will be able to get more recruits. These people are key forces in the local and shop. I might add here that it was even necessary for our comrades, who had been accustomed to talking to Party people in closed Party meetings in a phraseology hardly understandable in the local, to learn how to express in American slang our Marxian line.

While it is true that we have taken certain steps to break down our sectarian approach and are now getting into the unions, it is now necessary that we break down the sectarianism that exists in our social relationship to these non-Party people. In our unit we have made rapid strides in this direction, and we are now participating with these people in their social activities. The result is that now when we speak in the local, we talk not only as a brother members but also as a personal friend of many of the local members. This point is being dealt with very seriously in our shop units.

As a Party fraction in the union we have done very good work. We have been responsible for the initiating of many phases of work not only on a local and city scale but also on a national scale, and practically all members are active and responsible in various movements. But in the carrying through of independent activity, we have been very weak. For example, our shop paper comes out irregularly. We issue no shop leaflets, we do not carry out any independent activity in the shop and departments. Steps are now being taken to remedy these shortcomings in the following way. (1) Comrades are being developed to get out the shop paper and leaflets regularly; (2) new recruits will be gotten to improve our work in the shop; (3) through the study group, we shall be able to sell literature, get **Sunday Worker** subs, etc.; (4) regular study periods are to be held in the unit to improve the theoretical understanding of the comrades.

I will give one example of how the **Sunday Worker** can be used to build the Party and strengthen our work in the unions. In unit B, there were four members. One of these comrades got 18 regular readers for the **Sunday Worker**. From this readers' group there has been established a study group which all readers attend. The group has now increased to 24. From this group, seven have been recruited into the Party in the last three weeks, and this will be increased by eight more in the next two weeks, which will bring this unit up to 19. This will make it a decisive force in the local union.

In this unit, also, they were weak in getting out their shop paper. The District has now taken steps to remedy this and has assigned a capable comrade to assist them. They have gotten out their first issue in many months, and all signs point towards its regular issuance from now on.

These are two examples of well-functioning units. But we must say that the poor units greatly outnumber the good. To generalize on the functioning of these units we can say that this is due to the failure to work in the manner described in the report of the other two units or that this type of work has been carried through only partially. For example, unit C has eight numbers, most of whom are foreign born. These comrades are all members of the union of their shop. The shop papers come out once in the proverbial "blue moon". Their local is small and they play little or no part in building it. Recently elections of delegates were held. Our comrades were lax in this and little or no preparations were made to insure the election of our comrade. In fact, they adopted the position of electing one who is not favorable to us. No effort was made to contact non-Party forces to establish a study group. In general all the good points contained in the work of the two units mentioned above are lacking in the work of this unit.

The question now is what are we going to do about this situation? The following are some of the things we must do!

- (1) To establish a top committee of leading comrades in the auto industry who will handle the tasks that face us in this field, in the District;
- (2) to make this committee responsible for a survey and check on the functioning of all auto shop units;
- (3) to assign leading comrades from the District and Section to be responsible for one unit and to work under this committee;
- (4) regular monthly meetings of all shop unit organizers at which a general report will be given on the auto industry in the light of the latest developments, and the working out of tasks in connection with the situation;
- (5) to establish functioning fractions in the locals and other auto union bodies;
- (6) to release from other work all comrades who are in the auto union, so that they can devote their major time to this work and to establish themselves as real trade unionists;
- (7) to establish regular study groups of local members, regular literature buyers, **Daily Worker** and **Sunday Worker** readers, and in this manner recruit to the Party the key people in the shop and local.

Some Experiences in a Chicago Party Ward Branch

By M. GORDON, Section 5

OUR SECTION organized its first ward branch some two months ago. Since then all other street units in the Section have been reorganized along ward lines. We are now in a position, to a limited extent, to discuss certain experiences in the activity of such a branch.

The 31st Ward Branch consists of three former street units with a total membership of 50 members. The Section started the readjustments in this ward because the units in this territory were the strongest. The danger of mistakes would not be as costly here as in the case of weaker Party units.

The Section Committee carefully considered the leadership for the new ward branch. After proper comrades for the branch executive committee were selected, they were called together. The purposes of the reorganization were outlined. The duties of the various comrades on the executive committee were discussed. This executive committee slate was unanimously elected at the first meeting of the ward branch, after a thorough discussion on the reasons for the organizational readjustments and the concrete tasks of the ward branch. The Section Committee also immediately assigned one of its members to work with the branch executive committee.

Who Are the Leaders?

The executive committee has seven members. Of these, two comrades are leaders of an I.W.O. branch of 600 members; another is active in the language field; one comrade was the leader of a strike in our territory last year; two comrades are former street unit organizers. Three of the seven members are native born. The executive committee consists of: ward branch chairman, educational director, recording secretary, financial secretary, literature agent and **Daily Worker** agent. The executive meets once a week together with the representative of the Section Committee.

How We Carry Out Major Campaigns

The branch has recruited 25 members since its inception. This was the quota set for recruiting up to the date of the National Convention. **More recruiting was done in these few weeks as a ward branch than during the whole past year**

as street units. When the branch called its first open meeting five new members were recruited.

On March 5, the date of the Browder broadcast, the branch held another open meeting, which was attended by 150 workers. Here are the results of this open meeting: three new members recruited; \$6 worth of literature sold; three **Sunday Worker** subscriptions; expenses to cover the meeting; and several new contacts for the Party. The quota for the **Sunday Worker** subs was filled by getting 75 subs, which is one-third of the total secured by the entire section of 500 members.

The branch sells an average of 265 issues of the **Sunday Worker** weekly. About 50 per cent of the ward branch membership is involved in this work. Comrades who fail to engage in this important activity are placed on a "black list". A chart, with their names, hangs on the wall of our meeting place. In this way sales of the **Sunday Worker** are stimulated.

There has, however, been an alarming drop in the sale of literature and but a slight increase in the sale of the **Daily Worker** during this period. This is a serious shortcoming.

Two squads of comrades were selected and sent into neighborhood organizations (unemployed and Townsend Club). Since these comrades have just started their work in these mass organizations, it is too early to discuss their experiences.

Educational Life of the Branch

There is no doubt that there has been a definite change for the better in the inner life of the branch. Educational meetings have been held every other week, including the two open meetings. A study circle was organized, consisting mostly of Party members. There has been an improvement in the social life; comrades now bring their friends and sometimes their families to the open meetings. The meetings are held in a regular hall. Refreshments are served at the close of the open meetings.

Although the dues payments are quite satisfactory (almost 100 per cent) the attendance of meetings can be improved. At present about sixty per cent of the members attend the branch meetings. Although there are seven functioning captains, only once were they successful in mobilizing the entire membership. The fault here lies with the branch executive committee which failed to carry out its own decision as well as that of the Section Committee; namely, to have a roll call at every meetings and, with the assistance of the captains, to reduce the absentees to a minimum.

Main Weakness of the Branch

1. The main weakness which is evident now, as a result of the organizational changes, is that there has developed a tendency towards looseness and, sometimes, irresponsibility on the part of certain comrades. This is primarily due to the size of the organization. Some comrades feel that there are sufficient people to do the work and begin to neglect their own work; these same comrades, previously in street units, felt the forces were limited there and that they had to do their share. Also, the executive has as yet not managed to examine the work of each comrade and make proper assignments. It is a hard task but must be accomplished in order to overcome the above weaknesses.

2. The ward branch has not as yet become a political factor in the ward. There has been no development of consistent work in the creation of sentiment for a Farmer-Labor Party and the building of a Farmer-Labor Party Boosters Club. This activity, which has been neglected, must now be undertaken most seriously.

The branch will now be put to a real test as to its ability to provide leadership to the workers of the 31st ward. The branch must tackle the following tasks immediately: (a) participate in the political life of the ward and lay the basis for the Farmer-Labor Party; (b) organize the struggle against the 14 per cent cut in relief and the possible mass lay-offs of W.P.A. workers; (c) mobilize the workers and their organizations for the United May Day this year; (d) develop anti-war activity and expose the role of fascist war makers.

The branch has taken the initial step in creating a united front with the Socialist Party branch of this ward by approaching the Socialists with a proposal for joint activity in May Day preparations.

3. The shop concentration work of the ward branch has not been improved. This weakness can be overcome: the branch has sufficient and strong enough forces at its disposal for work around this shop.

To insure the proper functioning of the present large ward branches, strong leadership is essential. The Section Committees must help select proper leading comrades for work in the wards and must assign Section Committee comrades to actually work in and with the branch.

The experiences of this branch prove the correctness of the decisions of the November Plenum of the Central Committee on organization of the Party along lines of established political sub-divisions, despite the many weaknesses which still prevail. The possibilities for political and organizational growth of the Party have tremendously increased.

AGIT-PROP SECTION

How to Keep and Train New Party Members

By SAM DON

“WHY DON’T you give us some education before you give us an assignment?” asked a new Party member of his unit organizer. In the question of this new Party member lies the answer as to why many new Party members leave our ranks.

What does a new Party member expect of the Party when he joins our ranks? He expects to learn more about the work of the Party, more about the policies of the Party. He wants to find out what is the Communist position on the burning problems of the day. He is eager to find out the program of the Party.

The new Party member expects to be active. But he desires and he looks for an explanation about the activities assigned to him and about the work of the Party as a whole.

Who is this new Party member who joins our ranks today? He is a worker who reflects most clearly the deep-seething political life in the country. He is the type of worker who is very much agitated by the various movements in the country which have arisen since the crisis, and who persistently and consciously looks for an answer to the problems raised by the crisis. He joined the Party expecting to find the answer to the hundreds of questions and problems that agitated his mind before he entered our ranks. Unless we give him the answer he will leave the ranks of the Party as many have done.

There are many prejudices that a worker has to overcome before he makes up his mind to join our Party. We should not forget, for a single moment, that after he joins the Party, many of these prejudices still linger on. Our enemies still exercise their ideological influence upon our new Party members. Even after he joins our Party there is still a conflict in his soul. Is it surprising then that, facing difficulties, facing the pressure of alien forces, the new Party member will surrender to them unless we help him in his battle? And that help must be provided in the form of systematic education.

We have witnessed the acceptance of a new Party member by a Party unit. The worker who joined the Party happens to be the secretary of a local union. Towards the

very end of the meetings, the chairman, without any feeling or life in his voice, mumbled through the name of the worker anxious to join the Party. The unit accepted his application; no one took the trouble to say a few words of welcome to the new Party member, or at least shake hands with him; and when one watched the face of this new Party member, one could see not only bewilderment, but total disappointment. Perhaps after months of struggle, this new member finally decided that his place was in the ranks of the Communist movement. He looked forward to the day of the meeting when he would be accepted and considered a Communist. He considered that day the most eventful day of the many years of his activity in the labor movement. But when the unit accepted him into our ranks, the unit made it a most uneventful day in his life.

What is wrong with this attitude of "welcoming" workers into the Party and in the treatment we accord to new Party members? It is the fact that we do not treat them as living individuals; we treat every new Party member as if he were already a full-fledged Communist. The old Party members forget the time when they were new Party members. They forget how they had to struggle to overcome many prejudices, overcome many difficulties, until finally they felt deep down in their hearts that they were 100 per cent Communists. Certainly the new Party members should benefit by the ideological consolidation and Bolshevization of our Party. They can be spared the struggle of the early stages of becoming Bolshevized. But the new Party members must be given that education which the Party has acquired in its struggles to become Bolshevized, to help the new Party members to steel themselves and to prepare themselves to overcome any prejudices and difficulties that may arise in their work as members of the Communist Party. Indeed, the old Party members may also learn a great deal from the new members. We can learn from them how to approach the masses. Patience and a comradely attitude are indispensable in keeping the new members.

What should be the nature of the systematic education which we should give new Party members that will help them to remain in the Party and answer the most pressing problems that agitate them upon their joining the Party? Shall it be a course in political economy, or shall it be a course on the policies of the Party and how the Party lives and functions organizationally? We believe that we must begin the education of our new members with an explanation of the basic current policies of the Party and the organizational structure of the Party. It is precisely a discussion of the current policies of the Party that will help the new

Party members shake off the influence of those political ideas that they may have been in contact with before joining the Party. The class should be so organized that it will help the new members to see sense and meaning in the "assignments" given to them; that will help the new members become active fighters and leaders among those workers from whom they have sprung, with whom they still live and have contact. Let us not forget that every new Party member has to answer hundreds of questions put by his friends and shopmates who not only question his wisdom in joining the Party, but even ridicule it. We must supply our new Party member with that kind of political knowledge that will give him confidence, not only to explain and defend his joining the Party, but to take the initiative in winning new recruits for the Party.

What should be the subjects for such a new Party members' class? We suggest the following: (1) the united front and the fight against fascism and war—the Farmer-Labor Party in the United States; (2) the role of the Soviet Union, the danger of war, the struggle for peace; (3) the Party policies on the trade union field and unemployed struggles; (4) struggle for Negro rights and the national liberation of the Negro people; (5) the constitution and organizational structure of the Communist Party.

These topics should be discussed in line with the Seventh World Congress decisions. A new members' class may last from four to six weeks.

Who should teach these new members' classes? We believe that no member of a District Committee or Section Committee can consider himself too busy to take care of a new members' class. Let the active and leading comrades in the Districts and Sections show by example how important the problem of training new Party members is. Let them also show by example how to conduct these new members' classes.

Of course, we have the task of training instructors for these new members' classes. We must absolutely beware of picking "anybody" to conduct such a new members' class. The attitude of many of the new members will depend upon their respect for the instructor of a new members' class. We must train our instructors for these classes. We, therefore, suggest that in each District and Section, wherever possible, the District Committee select a number of comrades to take care of these new members' classes and develop special discussions with the instructors on the subjects which they will take up in the classes.

What should be the methods applied in these classes? The question and answer method. The experiences and ideas of the new members should be the very basis for the explaining

of the subjects under discussions. We should make the new members' class a battle-ground against the enemies of the working class and for the policies of the Party; and let the new members do most of the "fighting" with the proper guidance on the part of the instructor.

In the long run, it is the life of the Party unit which will determine whether the new Party member will remain in the Party. The new Party member judges the Party by the life of the unit in which he belongs. About 40 per cent of our members are probably in the Party less than one year. Not to give systematic political education to the new Party members means that 40 per cent of our army is disabled. The Party cannot carry through any of its policies successfully among the masses unless the Party membership understands the policies and the immediate tactics of the Party. The unit is the first place where the policies of the Party reaches the membership. Assignments in the unit without political discussion are dead orders to the Party membership. It should absolutely become a binding rule for the work in the Party that discussions be held regularly in the units of the Party on the major political problems, not only of the Party as a whole, but of the work of the unit in its particular location.

We will find that many a District and Section are very active in the problem of building the Farmer-Labor Party. Very lively discussions are being held in the District Committee on how to build the Farmer-Labor Party, how to develop the united front in order to build the Farmer-Labor Party, etc. But these discussions seldom reach the Party membership. It is the absence of such discussions which is responsible for the fact that there are not enough life and enthusiasm in the units for the important concrete practical work which the unit has to carry on. We should remember that it is after thorough discussions that the Central Committee, or the District Committee, reach an important decision. However, at times we take the attitude that by a mere statement or assignment, the membership will understand these decisions or show enthusiasm for them. It is, therefore, necessary to develop these political discussions in the units, and such discussions more than anything else will raise the political level of the membership, create enthusiasm for the work, and yes, raise interest in theoretical studies.

We made the point that the new members' classes shall not be classes in Principles of Communism, because our first problem in the training of new members is to acquaint them with the current policies of the Party, etc. Does the organization of new members' classes, however, exclude the need of Principles of Communism, classes in the basic principles of Marxism, Leninism? To reach such a conclusion would be

a fatal error. The policies of the Party are based on the principles of Marxism, Leninism. The faith in our cause, in the inevitability of the victory of the proletarian revolution, is based upon the science evolved by our teachers—Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. For the Party members to develop initiative and become leaders in the struggle, it is necessary that they be equipped with the Marxist-Leninist theory. It is precisely to the extent that we draw in the Party membership into the activities of the Party politically, to the extent that we develop our political discussions, that the interests and the desire for a deeper understanding will develop and the Party membership will then realize the importance of theoretical studies. The Workers' Schools must be utilized to the fullest extent in providing the Party membership with a minimum of Marxist-Leninist theoretical training.

The District Agitational Propaganda Commissions should consider as their greatest responsibility in Party education the organization of new members' classes and the political discussions in the Party units. The responsibility of elementary Party education is not that of the Agit-Prop. Directors alone. Let every District Organizer and Section Organizer consider this very simple fact: the influence of the Party is growing. Yet, organizationally, the Party membership has for the past year shown slow growth. In some Districts the fluctuation is 100 per cent during some months. From experience all agree that the lack of systematic education and the uninteresting life in the units are largely responsible for this fluctuation. Isn't it then the responsibility of the District Organizer, the Section Organizer, etc., when he speaks, when he makes reports and talks about the danger of fluctuation, the need of fighting it, to really consider it as his sacred duty to organize the political education in the Party?

At present we speak a great deal about the need of training cadres. The unit is the place to start the training of cadres. New members' classes, political discussions, Marxist-Leninist education, politically well-organized unit activities, will not only help us to overcome fluctuation, but will also help us in the training of cadres.

In our next article we shall deal with the problem of training cadres.

Experiences of a Full-time Training School in a Mining Center

By S. K., Southern Illinois

THE RECENT experience of a one-week school in an important trade union town in Southern Illinois shows the possibility of recruiting key people through such schools, and raises the problem of extending and improving these schools. How was the school organized in this particular town? What was the nature of the school? What were the results?

A town of about 15,000, it has a strong and militant miners' organization. In addition there are about 35 other trade unions. It has been the center of several struggles, including a general strike. At the time of the general strike and until recently, the Party remained an outside force. The reason for this was that the Party unit consisted of unemployed, the majority elderly, isolated from the decisive section of workers in town who were organized in trade unions. When we raised the problem of getting into the trade unions, the possibility of recruiting from the trade unions, the answer was: "The Trades Assembly here is a Chamber of Commerce outfit."

In this unit, however, there was one comrade who has been active for a long period in a trade union, but not very active in the Party. We decided that this comrade could be used to change the situation and we had a thorough discussion with him. We asked him: "What can you do to help us bring trade union people into the Party? Do you have contacts among trade unionists?"

It was clear that he had contacts among trade unionists, but he did not want to bring them into the Party until they knew "what it was all about". Secondly, he did not feel that these people would fit in with existing group of unemployed. We, therefore, proposed that he organize his own group and that we would help by holding a school for key people whom he would invite.

The composition of the school was as follows: The first night of the school, seven workers were present. Of these five were active in trade unions, one woman, one unemployed. Two of these in particular were key people in town. Several held offices in their local unions and were active in the Central Trades Council. After the first meeting it was clear that the Central Trades and Labor was not a "Chamber of Commerce outfit", but was a progressive group. It was decided to invite others. We also emphasized the question of bringing the wives to the school. The second night the school grew to eleven, and by the middle of the week, 20

were attending. The composition was excellent—all American elements, the majority young (average age—35), active trade unionists, several presidents of local unions, secretaries, delegates to the Central Trades and Labor, and officers of that body.

Our persistent effort to get women brought five of them, which is very important in a small town and helps to give the school a proper setting and standing, as well as making it possible to bring entire families into the movement. Because many of them were active in the leadership of unions, there was a very healthy approach and relationship with trade union leaders in town. Not only were they leaders in the local unions, but some had shown themselves to be leaders of the town on various municipal issues.

The school was organized in a house and there were six classes every night for two hours. We all got around a large table and everyone felt at home. It is true that in such a short time it is not possible to cover everything in detail and no attempt was made to do so. The students had participated in important struggles, were acquainted with some trade union problems, but it was also clear that they did not have the background to understand the implications and meaning of the concrete struggles in which they had taken part. They were filled with capitalist ideology—at the same time being strongly anti-capitalist. Therefore the main aim was to give a theoretical background which would change their fundamental approach to the concrete problems which they were facing. We organized the discussion around the following main topics:

1. Background of Capitalism;
2. Economic Workings of Capitalism—Profit;
3. Causes of Crises;
4. Imperialism and the Present Crisis;
5. Nature of Government—Democracy, Fascism, Socialism;
6. Current Problems—War, Farmer-Labor Party, Developments in Trade Union Movement.

The discussion would start with the concrete problem with which they were acquitted and we would then analyze the reasons. At the same time the discussion would consciously take note of the common capitalist illusions.

When the school started only one or two had ever heard of Marx and Lenin. It was almost the unanimous belief at the beginning that capitalism had always existed, that it had come into existence peacefully, that capital and labor are equally necessary, that profits come from the sale of things, that the government was the people. There was a tremendous interest in the Soviet Union, but no knowledge as to how that government operates. Everyone smiled at the word "Bolshevik", and one of the wives expressed the opinion of the

others when she exclaimed: "I always did want to know what that word meant. They're always calling my husband that."

What method is used to conduct these schools? The lessons are arranged in the form of questions and answers. Each student gets a copy of the lesson. Each student is asked to express his opinion on each question with the result that **everyone** participates in the schools. By the end of the school session even the most shy was participating. In addition, this prevents anyone from feeling that something is being crammed down his throat. The conclusions stand out very naturally and were arrived at collectively. The question and answer method also makes it possible to bring out all the capitalist illusions. Once they are brought out, it is easier to destroy them. In conducting such schools it is also necessary to remember that they are not funerals. Pep and humor do not make them less "scholarly" in the least.

What were the results of the school?

1. The students agreed that they needed more of them and decided to organize another one which would be larger and would include additional trade unionists.

2. It gave an immediate stimulus to the movement for the Farmer-Labor Party.

3. Four key people were recruited in the Party and these are already recruiting other. One student expressed it this way: "What I like about this school is that not only do I learn here, but that it shows me where to find out things."

In recruiting these into the Party, in addition to the school, a meeting was held with the four most promising people and a good discussion on the Party was held. Only one question came up for clarification: "If I join the Party will I lose my prestige, will I have to break with the many connections that I now have?" A very thorough discussion was held and after that they remarked: "Nothing to do but join."

There are great possibilities for these schools. There is a tremendous interest among trade union people. With proper approach, proper organization of such schools, many key people can be won for the Party.

Note: We congratulate the comrades for their splendid initiative in organizing such a school. We suggest that this example should be followed by other Districts. It is especially important to organize one to two weeks full-time training schools in the industrial sections of the larger Districts. We should like to receive the outlines which the comrades have used in this school. We think that perhaps it would be more advisable to spend more time on the current problems of the Party and decisions of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International.

Editors.

AGIT-PROP WORKER

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Cleveland, Ohio

April 11, 1936

TOLEDO

CLEVELAND

AKRON

YOUNGSTOWN

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CINCINNATI

AGIT-PROP DEPT.
DISTRICT SIX

The Educational Program in the Cleveland District

THE DISTRICT Agit-Prop Commission has set itself the following ten tasks as a necessary and achievable minimum for 1936: a two-weeks' training school in Youngstown; a two-weeks' training school in Cincinnati; a trade union class in Akron; a trade union class in Canton; a leadership class in each of the four Cleveland Sections; new membership classes in every Section, at least every three months; unit functionaries' classes in conjunction with the regular functionaries' meetings in every Section (organizational, agit-prop, finance, etc.); organization of the bi-monthly unit educational meetings; a six-weeks' full-time training school on a District scale.

The dates for each of these training schools and membership classes are being taken up separately with each Section. But, while the District Agit-Prop Commission will do all it can to help, the Sections must make the first beginnings. Let's get busy in a serious way.

Note: We should like to hear from the other Districts throughout the country as to what their plans are concerning the training of cadres for the summer and winter periods.
Editors.

"The Party of revolutionary Marxism radically denies all searching after an absolutely correct form of Party organization and equally of methods for its work absolutely suited to all stages of the revolutionary process. On the contrary, the form of organization and the methods of work are entirely determined by the peculiarities of the given, concrete historical situation and the tasks which directly arise out of this situation."

(From Resolutions of the Tenth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union).

How Philadelphia Uses the Radio in the May 1 Campaign

By CARL REEVE

THE EXPERIENCES of the workers' organizations in the Philadelphia District in going on the radio during the May First campaign shows that our Party has only begun to make use of the possibilities of going on the air. At the present time the biggest program of radio broadcasting that Philadelphia labor has ever seen is under way. Eight broadcasts were scheduled for the month of April alone and several were held in March. So far the American League Against War and Fascism; the Writers' Union, the United Workers' Organizations and the Communist Party have scheduled radio broadcasts. All except the Communist Party have signed contracts for three broadcasts over Station W.I.P. ("Philadelphia's Pioneer Voice") which is one of the largest local stations run by Gimbel Brothers store. The Communist Party has so far scheduled one broadcast over Station W.F.I.L., the other large local station.

By securing these broadcasts for 10:30 P. M., the organizations were able to get them for \$29 a broadcast. The broadcast over Station W.F.I.L. cost \$65.

As these broadcasts have proceeded, interest in them has noticeably increased. Many parties were arranged in homes and at open unit meetings and gatherings of mass organizations to listen to the radio broadcast. One worker listened to the speech in a hotel lobby. But the organization of listening parties could be still more widely utilized. We have learned that radio must be accompanied by widespread publicity of the broadcasts well in advance. We are announcing the schedule in all unit meetings, noting the radio schedule on all leaflets issued, on mimeographed letters, etc. It is also important to announce speakers well in advance in order to get the most out of the broadcast. So far we have not advertised the radio schedule sufficiently in out-of-town sections (particularly rural areas). Mass meetings and affairs can be interrupted for 15 minutes to listen in on the broadcast.

The very use of the radio helps to finance the cost of the broadcast. People will contribute to a radio broadcasting fund more readily than to ordinary financial campaigns. The Writers' Union is financing one broadcast by giving a reception immediately after the broadcast to the speaker (Angelo Herndon). The American League Against War and Fascism has established a special radio fund, and has a contract for many weeks on the air.

MAY DAY RADIO PROGRAM

Are you interested in the fight for Social Security?

Do you want to hear about the struggle against War and Fascism?

Are you for 100% unionization of labor—against company unions and wage cuts?

— THEN —

TUNE IN YOUR RADIO

on the following stations:

- April 13, 10:30 p. m.—WIP
 May Day Committee—Speaker—MOTHER ELLA REEVE BLOOR.
- April 17, 10:30 p. m.—WIP
 May Day Committee—Speaker—ANGELO HERN-
 DON, for Writers Union.
- April 20, 10:30 p. m.—WIP
 American League Against War and Fascism.
- April 22, 10:30 p. m.—WFIL
 Communist Party—Speaker—PAT TOOHEY, Dis-
 trict Organizer.
- April 24, 10:30 p. m. WIP
 Speaker—JOSEPH FREEMAN for Writers Union.
- April 27, 10:30 p. m.—WIP
 May Day Comm.—Speaker—FRANK HELLMAN.
 [Union Label]

Note: The last issue of the Party Organizer published a short article urging the Districts to make every possible effort to get on the radio. The Philadelphia and Ohio Districts have shown what results can be obtained with little effort, by getting on the radio. We would like to hear from other Districts as to what is being done in this respect.

Editor.

Communists on the Radio in Ohio

“WE WANT MORE”, seems to be the demand of every Party member and sympathizer who heard Earl Browder on the radio in the recent National Columbia Broadcasting System hook-up. Stimulated by the possibility of speaking to tens of hundreds of thousands, yes even millions, where before we have been able to speak to only hundreds or a few thousands at most, it is to be expected that comrades everywhere will call for more.

Radio in Goodyear Strike

In Ohio, the Party has made a beginning toward fulfilling this demand. Our Akron Section must be commended for its alertness, determination and the decisive use made of the radio during the Goodyear Rubber strike. To be sure, active work by our comrades in the American Federation of Labor unions, the distribution of the **Daily Worker** and leaflets were used to mold the opinion, particularly of the strikers, and thus shape in some measure the course of events.

But it was the radio that reached the great mass of Akron workers, cleared away the fog precipitated by the capitalist Litchfield and arbitrator McGrady. Without this moral mass support around clear-cut issues, the great though partial victory could never have been won.

Another example of the use of radio was provided by Cincinnati.

This was not in the heat of battle, but was a broadcast symposium on the effect the program of the Communist, Socialist and other parties would have on the United States. This event alone gave thousands of people for the first time a clear-cut presentation of Communist theory. As a result of this radio talk, the Section decided to resort to the radio to popularize the District Convention decisions.

Must Fight for Radio

Let us not, because of these successes, lull ourselves into thinking that the radio is there for the taking. Many stations, including W.H.K., refused to hook up Comrade Browder. The rates for time on the big stations are beyond our means. The prejudice of station officials and the pressure brought to bear on them by their advertisers must be gotten around as well as the howl of the Liberty Leaguers. This means a radio audience must be built, a system of money collection for radio time developed and carried out. Insistence by masses for the right for Communists to broadcast must be initiated.

The Communications Act, 1934, Section 135, provides that if a station gives time to a Republican or Democratic candidate, it must, if requested, give the same time to a Communist or other party candidate for the same office. If it sells time to one candidate at a certain price it must sell it to any other candidate for the same price.

But there is nothing in the law now to make a station put on a Communist candidate if a similar candidate of another party has not used the radio. But if it bans the Communist, it must ban all candidates for that particular office.

We should know our rights in respect to the use of the radio, be on our toes so as not to pass up any possibility. We must realize that it is an instrument that we must make use of.

Why is it not possible in the course of the coming elections to put on regular broadcasts? Which Section will be on the air next? What about some challenges?

In Cincinnati the comrades want some one to give a talk on the problems facing the people in Southern Ohio so the units are taking up the problem of collecting money for a talk over station W.C.P.O. And when the talk is given, they will arrange for open meetings around radios, to be followed by free discussion.

Shall the Canton Party get on the air? This is the question raised by the Canton comrades in the bulletin issued by the Section Committee. They can get fifteen minutes for \$15 and are raising the question in their branches.

Shop Unit and Branch Organizers! Send in your problems to the **Party Organizer**. We want to devote a regular column to the question of the **Problems of Unit Organizers**.

New Members' Classes in Seattle

WITH RECRUITING arises the problem of familiarizing the new members of the Party, as to what the Party is, how it functions, etc. In Seattle, two new members' classes have been organized. The Section has made it compulsory for all new members to attend these classes, making it their major assignment for six weeks. No reports have come in indicating similar steps in other sections. New members' classes must be organized in every Section as this becomes an important part of our work to educate new members and keep them in the Party. Copies of new members' outlines for these classes are available in the District at five cents per copy, or each Section can mimeograph its own.

Note: We think the idea of asking new members to attend a new members' class and to consider it the major assignment for a period of six weeks is very good. However, we do not believe that it is necessary to make it compulsory. Attendance should rather be brought about by convincing new members of the necessity of such a class and creating enthusiasm for it. To make it compulsory may have just the opposite effect.

Editors.

“Without a concrete Marxist-Leninist analysis we shall never be able correctly to approach and solve the problem of fascism, the problem of the proletarian front and the general people's front, the problem of our attitude toward bourgeois democracy, the problem of the processes going on within the working class, particularly among the Social-Democratic workers, the problem of the United Front government, or any of the numerous other new and complex problems with which life itself and the development of the class struggle confront us now and will confront us in the future.”—George Dimitroff.

An Issue and an Opportunity!

By JOE FIELDS

THE BURNING issue facing millions of trade unionists and unorganized workers in the United States today is industrial unionism. When an outstanding leader of the American proletariat and a fighter for decades in the struggle for industrial unionism contributes an important study of this timely subject, we would naturally expect every District and Section of our Party, especially where large-scale industry is concentrated, to swing into immediate action for the widest distribution of such a pamphlet. We would expect every trade union fraction and shop unit, especially in the steel, coal, auto and other industrial centers, to grasp at this opportunity of strengthening and furthering the struggle for industrial unions.

But what have been the results thus far? These figures on order for William Z. Foster's **Industrial Unionism**, better than any words, illustrate the deplorable manner in which Districts have lagged behind the possibilities offered by Comrade Foster's new pamphlet.

Portland	50	Tacoma	25
Pittsburgh	25	Philadelphia	500
Minneapolis	50	Cincinnati	125
St. Louis	100	San Francisco	500
Newark	250	Greensboro, N. C.	10
Youngstown	50	Detroit	250
Baltimore	20	Madison, Wis.	5
Houston, Texas	100	Atlanta	5
Cleveland	500	Salt Lake City	20
Milwaukee	510	Akron	40
Chicago	500	New Haven	15
Boston	500	Denver	20

We would like to know why New Haven orders 15 copies to Boston's order of 500. We would like to know why an important auto center like Detroit waits to the last moment to order 250. We would like to know why Pittsburgh sends an order for 25. Such weak showings on a pamphlet, which deals with one of the most burning issues facing the American working class, are a reflection of the work of the Party. We call on the Districts to remedy this situation.

How Seattle Organizes Discussions in the Units

AS A MEANS of helping to organize political discussions in the units, it is necessary for the Bureau to organize the agenda in order to give each point a certain amount of time and try to confine each point to this limited time. Out of a period of two hours, which should be the duration of an average unit meeting, a minimum of one hour should be devoted to political discussion.

It is necessary to have a comrade elected as Educational Director whose job it is to see that discussions are held regularly and that proposals are made at each Bureau meeting for the discussion for the following week.

What are suitable topics for discussion in the units, many comrades have asked. This can be answered by asking the following questions: How many units have had reports and discussions on the District Convention? Were open unit meetings held when reports were given? Has a discussion taken place on the war danger? How about the Soviet peace policy, the Second Congress against War and Fascism, civil liberties, etc. Organization of discussions such as these in the unit, plus mass meetings, protest meetings, etc., is the main job of our Educational Directors. Other issues, the Seattle election campaign, its lessons, hold significance for the entire District. A discussion in the units on these questions will help the election campaigns in our vicinity. The People's Front victory in Spain, the Brazilian revolution, are important points for discussion, but must not be discussed from an abstract, theoretical point of view, but from a political viewpoint, linking up these discussions with the local situation, bringing these things before the masses through open forums, mass meetings, issuance of leaflets, etc.

The material for the discussions is contained in the **Party Guide**, the **Daily Worker**, **The Communist**, **The Party Organizer**. Editorials in the **Voice of Action** can also be used as discussion material.

The Party campaign must be discussed thoroughly in an organized manner. In the **Daily Worker** of March 23, a Pre-Convention discussion article dealing with the organization of unit discussions gives some good ideas in this respect.

A Popular May Day Leaflet

[The following letter (May Day leaflet) was issued by the Detroit Agit-Prop Commission. It is an excellent way of bringing forward the May Day campaign in language which workers can understand. The letter was folded in such a way as to make an envelope with a stamp marked May Day and Farmer-Labor Party in the date circle. It was addressed to Mr. Auto Worker—Editor].

Dear Bill:

My wife and I are going over to the **May Day** meeting on Friday, May 1, at 8 P. M. at the Deutsches Haus, 8200 Mack Avenue at Maxwell, and I want your family to come along.

You know May Day really started in America. My old man is always telling me how a bunch of workers in Chicago met with a heluva lot of trouble when they tried to get an eight-hour day. The cops planted a bomb and framed the workers leading the fight and hung five of them. That was fifty years ago. Every year since then the workers hold meetings on May Day all over the world to voice their grievances and demands and to show their strength and power.

In Detroit we have plenty to beef about. You know how tough it is: Worrying "how long will this job last?" I don't have to tell you about the speed-up, part time jobs and lousy pay. Strong unions won the eight-hour day 50 years ago; it sure seems to me and some of my friends that if we all got together in one big industrial union of all auto workers (The United Automobile Workers of America) we could get more wages, a full work-week, less speed-up and some of the other things we want.

And what happens after the job's over? WPA is on its way out. Relief? Well, what's left of it when the crooks at the City Hall get through with the money? I'm still holding my nose from the smell from city hall; and our police department, under Heinrich (little Hitler) Pickert, spends its time busting up picket lines, raiding our homes and union halls, machine gunning for 14 year old kids, and beating up Negroes, instead of going after the real crooks.

The way I see it, we need a new political line-up. Not the old Republican and Democratic politicians, but a political party of our own, putting our people into office to run things, to feed the hungry, to put a stop to war. Look at the people in Hamtramck! They believe in action. They put that fight-

ing little woman, Mary Zuk, into the City Council where she's going to do her best to put over a program that will help the people in Hamtramck. How about that kind of politics in Detroit?

Another big reason I'm going to the May Day meeting is: I want to join the crowd that is against war and fascism. You know what's going on in Europe—Mussolini, Hitler, Japan. Hearst and his **Detroit Times** tell all that bunk about the Soviet Union. But take it from me, it's nothing but lies. They're building a real happy life there, and they have no unemployment, no hunger, no race hatred, no lynchings. The rich in control of our country wants to have the Soviet Union because it is the one land in the world where the worker have found out that when they kicked out the bosses they kicked out their miseries. That puts a scare in the bosses. We might get the same idea, they figure. So they'd sure like to get at the Soviet Union. But that's the one country that fights for peace all the way down the line.

To be sure, Bill, be at this meeting with the wife and kids, because we really need to get together, all of us, and stop this fascism that's coming. We don't want any Hitler in America, even if their names turn out to be Coughlin or Hearst. Because then we'd have no unions, no right to organize and to protect ourselves.

See you on May Day at the Deutsches Haus, 8200 Mack Avenue at Maxwell at 8 P. M.

With best regards,
Jack.

Issued by the Communist Party, 5969 14th Street,
Detroit, Michigan.

