

# PARTY . . . ORGANIZER

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Strengthening the Party in Detroit  
—Allen

Party Organization in California

Problems of Industrial Units  
in New York —Steinberg

An Understanding of the  
Y. C. L. Convention —Winston

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# PARTY ORGANIZER

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## Strengthening the Party in Detroit

By WILLIAM ALLEN

**D**ETROIT today occupies an honorable place in the American labor movement. Eight months of intensive struggle for unionism in the biggest open-shop city of America have steeled the working people, united their ranks and prepared them for the coming struggles that must today become the next step for the further economic and political advancement of labor.

The Communist Party, an integral part of this great new labor movement, strengthened by new members and the experience of these past struggles, must not only give aid and direction today to the coming struggles, but must raise them to an ever-higher level, constantly speaking in the name of the Party, giving the stand of the Communists through independent activities and the Party press.

### **The Reason for No Recruiting**

The failure of the Party to come before the masses daily with the program and position of the Party, through mass meetings of all kinds under the auspices of the district and the branches, was the reason for no mass recruiting or the development of conscious, systematic recruiting during the time when 200,000 workers became members of the organized labor movement. This the district leadership recognizes and must correct.

We are already in a better position to correct this, principally through the improvement of the system of Party leadership. The setting up of the county form of organization which twice a month brings together 24 street branches, 28 shop and industrial units, and 14 language bureaus, which not only receive directives but also make decisions, broadens the leadership and widens democracy within the Party.

We agreed that our units must receive not only directives from the county committee, but more than ever, since we abolished the section committees, they must receive organizational and political aid.

How has it worked and what methods do we use? First, the methods. Each week a list of all unit meetings is made, comrades are assigned, and in some cases a discussion is held with the comrade, who is to go to the unit, on the composition of the unit, of the territory, what that unit can do in the territory in regard to mass work, what kind of leadership the unit has, whether we can improve it; also, that all discussions and educational material consider the manner in which the unit translates the issues to the neighborhood, for example, arranging an open air meeting, united front action on Spain, against the high cost of living, etc.

### **Direct Contact with the Units**

That directives and work can be improved by discussions with the units was proven recently. Comrade Weinstein in attending a meeting of a large branch on the East Side of Detroit developed a discussion on rents through the question and answer method, not by a lecture, and obtained the following results:

The whole branch participated, not only speaking on their own housing conditions, but also giving a real picture of the various types of problems that arise when the comrades are mapping out a program.

As a result, more practical slogans and organizational methods plus more political work, as on the housing question, etc., were obtained than those worked out by the

district organizational department in its county bulletin. In fact, the methods suggested by the organizational department were only of an organizational character which created a tendency to fall into the error of making the units instruments only for carrying out directives, leaving them no room to develop discussion in order to create slogans on the basis of the actual situation among the people. That is the object of the reorganization, to involve the Party membership in the political as well as the practical tasks—making them feel that policy, strategy and tactics are not only made by the district leadership, but are also made in the basic organizations of the Party, the units and branches.

This branch felt after the meeting that the district leaders, by coming to the branches, get to know the problems they have to deal with. They appreciated the help that was given. They were not given a speech, but went through a meeting where all efforts were centered on what the units can do to *put into practice* the educational topic under discussion.

### **Special Attention to Shop Units**

Special attention to shop units is the major task of the district committee in Detroit. At the start of the production season, we had only a few units in the factories. Now the Party has units in 30 plants, all of which have been formed in the last few months. These units are still weak. Many members do not see the need for the unit meeting every week, because, they say, the plants are organized and the union is progressive. They do not understand as yet the independent role of the Party, and take up the entire time of the unit meeting with detailed discussion on trade union problems. They must all receive close attention and visits by district comrades to every meeting.

We must seek to broaden the perspective of the units by having them take up such questions as the campaign for a people's ticket in the coming elections, support by the local union for the Spanish People's Front, the fight through the unions against rent profiteering, etc.

Take an example of a comrade in one of the General

Motors plants who is going to Spain. The matter was raised in the shop stewards' meeting. The stewards decided to give a banquet for this comrade, who by the way recruited 20 new Party members and is known as a Communist. This expression of the stewards must be developed further. For instance, a Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy can be elected; the entire local with its 26,000 members can initiate a campaign to get an ambulance for Spain in the name of the United Automobile Workers of America.

This union has a committee for the rent problem. The women's auxiliary together with other women's groups, in the neighborhood, is calling a mass meeting against profiteering in rents and the perspective is for a real struggle backed by the union.

Out of 22 members, the unit in this particular plant had 15 present at its last meeting. Several of those absent had department meetings and the roll call showed good attendance.

#### **Educational Discussions on Current Issues**

The educational discussions usually take the form of Spain, high rents, the movement for a people's ticket, and as a result concrete proposals are obtained, interest is maintained, and the members, in order to mobilize for the meeting, tell the comrades in the shop just what the discussion at the next meeting will be.

The problem of "no time for recruiting" was solved by this shop unit, when the best comrade in the unit was elected the Party builder. He is the recognized leader of the union because of his activities during the strike, and is well known to every worker in the plant. He was given the contacts, and released of a number of small union tasks that occupy much time. He secured literature, gave it to these workers, visited them at their homes where their wives could also listen in on the discussions, and as a result got 20 new members. He is the best recruiter in the district.

The slogan of the unit is "The stronger the Party, the stronger the union."

It is clear, of course, that we must avoid the unit's depending entirely on the district comrade to run the meetings, prepare the agenda, lead educational discussions. In the shop and also in the street branches, executive committees must be elected to lead the work.

These organizational steps must be carried through in all Party branches in the next four weeks. Otherwise the shop units will again lose members during the lay-off season. The branches must be consolidated and held together in preparation for new activities, such as the coming election campaign (where the union apparatus will be a great force in canvassing and electioneering), the campaign for Spain that still has not reached the union people in their day-to-day lives.

For the branches in the neighborhoods who now compose two or three small street units, such a set-up is vital as they might otherwise disintegrate because of lack of tight organization and control. Such a set-up will make it much easier to handle large meetings; it will place the unit meetings in charge of the members and will discourage the tendency to leave everything to the district comrade.

The whole Party now, in the next period, must carry through systematic mass activities of all kinds, around all issues affecting the lives of the workers, tirelessly bringing forward the position of the Party and the ultimate aim of the Party; popularizing the tremendous achievements of the Soviet Union. Developing political issues in the shop units must become a consistent policy to deepen the political understanding of the workers and the influence of the Party.

# Party Organization in California

*From Organization Report Made at California State  
Committee Meeting*

SINCE the last convention of our Party in California we have made some outstanding progress on numerous fronts, as in the fight for social legislation through the People's Legislative Conference, in the municipal elections in Oakland and Los Angeles, around the anti-picketing ordinances in San Francisco and Alameda. We greatly strengthened our position in important central labor bodies throughout the state and in many decisive unions, playing no little part in the C.I.O. organization drive. We have conducted a splendid recruiting drive and finished only a short time ago quite a successful *Western Worker* financial drive.

We cannot, however, pat ourselves on the back for our good work today. We have still very many serious problems to solve, such as bringing the Party forward as an independent political force, raising the political understanding of our membership, overcoming the still serious questions of fluctuation, etc.

*What have we got in California?* We registered 3,400 members this year, some 900 more than last year—an improvement over the past two years, when our membership remained almost stationary. We almost fulfilled the task laid down by our Convention of 3,500 dues-paying members by January 1. The entire country justifiably congratulated California on its splendid recruiting. But while to a certain extent we have learned to recruit, we have not yet learned sufficiently how to keep the new members. This is a central question.

What is the situation today insofar as our units are concerned? We have 226 units and branches in the state. Of this number nine are shop units, most of them in small shops, 55 industrial units, and the balance street units and branches of which some 28 are professional units.

## Shop Nuclei

We are divorced from the large plants. Out of 1,203 members who recorded they worked in shops, 846 are in shops with less than 100, 162 in shops up to 200, and only 195 in shops over 200—with but 71 in factories of 1,000 or more. Yet there are tens of thousands working in aircraft, automobile, steel, metal, canneries and oil refineries. In many instances we followed the path of least resistance. It was so much easier to organize the workers in one industry into a unit than to nurse along new shop units. We have cases of the liquidation of shop units and the formation of industrial units on the excuse of lack of forces. We have a number of industrial units which could readily build up shop units, providing we helped them and showed them how to carry through concentration work.

We must carry through special conferences of all our shop workers from large plants to discuss with them the problems in the shops, their contacts, the issuance of agitational material, and the assignment of leading forces to assist them. We have to take up with our entire Party once again the whole question of concentration on important plants, drawing into this work the street units and branches and the territorial sections, as well as the active comrades in the C.I.O. organization drive.

It is important to re-emphasize that the shop units remain the basic and most effective form of Party organization.

## Industrial Units

Of the nearly 1,500 Party members belonging to trade unions we find some 700 organized into about 55 industrial units—including the waterfront. We have industrial units in the needle trades, building trades, metal, printing, furniture, etc., in the main, in the light industries. The industrial units have already justified their existence, however. They have succeeded in combining the scattered trade union members who formerly met haphazardly in fractions.

This brought about an immediate improvement in our general trade union work, and activized a larger percentage of our trade union membership, with the result that our comrades have become better trade unionists. This is no small matter. It has helped to put California in the forefront of many important developments on the trade union field.

The industrial units also succeeded in taking the first steps to create some political consciousness in the labor movement—the need for independent political action. Surely such movements as the People's Legislative Conference, the municipal elections in Alameda and Los Angeles, the repeal of the anti-picketing ordinances, the California Youth Assembly, won support among trade unions because of our improved work.

In the industrial units, while there has been a much slower tempo of recruiting, due no doubt to the still existing hesitancy on the part of our comrades to recruit, the fear to be known as Communists, nevertheless the slow growth has been accompanied with but a slight fluctuation, showing that the industrial units have been able to keep the new members and involve them in work in which they were interested.

That is of outstanding importance for us and possibly gives us a key to the understanding of how to overcome the serious fluctuation in the Party.

But the fundamental problem has not been solved by the industrial units. They are not yet political bodies, good Communist units, which react to the local state and national issues, giving an answer to the workers on many of the questions that are so widely discussed. Our comrades really hesitate to bring forward the face of the Party. We have had innumerable examples in the needle trades, building, aircraft and even the waterfront. Our industrial units must come forward with these questions. Our advances in the trade union movement will not be consolidated unless we follow them up with advances in Party influence and growth.

## Branches and Street Units

We have 167 branches and street units, twenty of which are branches and twenty-eight professional units. There is still a great deal of unclarity on the role of the branches and a general hesitation to adopt this organizational form which has already proven its effectiveness and brought about an improvement in the quality of our work. In the main we have street units, scores of which still have eight, nine and ten members, making it difficult properly to distribute the work.

At a recent meeting of branch functionaries in San Francisco an examination of the branches showed that the majority, although called assembly branches, consist of members who do not live in the assembly district. Furthermore, most of the branches have no connections with the organizations in the area. Disconnected from the people in the neighborhoods, from the mass organizations, they are not live political organizations which react to all the intimate local political issues of the assembly district. And yet, despite this, the branches function more efficiently than the "bedroom units," especially on some Party campaigns—financial drives, the *Western Worker* circulation, issuance of neighborhood bulletins, leaflet distribution, etc.

Why have these branches not been successful? Because we organized them mechanically, by merging a number of street units, and then left them to shift for themselves hoping that by some miracle they would find themselves. But they haven't, and they need our careful attention to develop them into real community centers, known by the people.

In those places where the branches developed from street units on the basis of expansion of work and development of varied forms of activity we have some good results. One such branch in Los Angeles in a period of only a few months succeeded in establishing a forum, building a branch of the League Against War and Fascism, as well as a youth branch of fifty young people, rebuilt the International Labor Defense branch, participates in the

Epic Continuation Committee, holds a Sunday class and regular open meetings.

We must give serious attention to our branches and street units. The majority of our membership is still found here, and we must assist them to become intimately integrated with the people in the neighborhoods and mass organizations, issue Party bulletins, develop forms of open activity such as forums, meetings on community problems, establish headquarters and see that the majority of the members get into mass organizations.

We can see from the above that while we have some improvement in our work, the basic problems still remain.

We are proposing the holding of a series of organizational conferences throughout the state in June and July as a first step in the direction of helping the units and putting the decisions of the district organizers' conference and our own meeting into effect. But we suggest that these be periodically followed up and the decisions checked through the holding of unit functionaries' conferences to examine the work of good and bad units, in this manner helping to find a solution of this problem. Such methods will convince our membership that we are determined to improve the lower organizations and a new life and enthusiasm will permeate our Party.

# Problems of Industrial Units in New York City

By MAX STEINBERG

**W**ITH the increased mass activity of our Party, and our extended influence among the masses, the industrial units, next to the shop units, can and should become the most effective builders of our Party among the most decisive section of the population—the industrial proletariat. This can be accomplished not only by the industrial unit membership itself, but particularly with the aid and assistance of the trade union and section leadership which must guide them in their course, along lines that will most effectively help us to achieve this end.

We shall confine ourselves in this article to the outstanding problems of the moment which require serious consideration.

## **Industrial Units Permanent Form of Organization**

It must be recorded that during a period of a little over one year and a half the industrial units have established themselves as a permanent form of organization in many of the industries of New York City, and have played an important role in the splendid achievements of our Party in the trade union movement, which more than justifies their existence. This is particularly true of the industrial units in the needle trades, fur, building trades, food, office workers, etc. The argument that the Socialist Party offered about two years ago that a united front with the Communists would mean isolation from the trade unions or, as they put it, “a break with the trade unions,” has been disproved in reality. For, while Communists are today accepted leaders in the trade union movement, the sectarian policy of the Socialists has isolated them in the trade union field. Our industrial units, in carrying out the Marxist-Leninist line of our Party, have worked effectively in the greater development of the trade union movement.

At the same time, however, these very units present a real problem to the Party. Our industrial units, to a great extent, have remained pure and simple trade union groups, not entirely fulfilling their role independently as Communists outside of their trade unions. As a matter of fact, many of our Communists who are members of trade unions do not know the Party and its role as a revolutionary force in the political life of the community. At the recent District Party Training School—a school 90 per cent of which were trade union actives—the comrades admitted that the school was a revelation to them, and a discovery of the Party. They had not known the connection between the Party's program, its ultimate aim, and the immediate central tasks of the Party. Today, after some Party schooling the students of this school are without exception imbued with the greatest enthusiasm for our Party. This example shows that in order to solve the problems of the industrial units, it is necessary to get our entire membership to understand the program of our Party and to see the independent role of our Party in the trade unions.

### **Examination of a Year's Work**

After more than a year's existence, let us examine briefly how the units have fulfilled our expectations. In New York, the average rate of recruiting per month has been about 700 in the past year. This is a lower rate than during the first few months of the existence of the industrial units, and certainly not much higher than during the period when our comrades were in the street units. We must also bear in mind that at least one-half or more of this monthly average is recruited by our shop units, street units and branches. Therefore, on the task of recruiting thousands of new industrial workers, especially from the trade unions, the industrial units have not taken the fullest advantage of their possibilities. The industrial unit membership of 4,000 should have been doubled, if not tripled during this period.

As to the problem of checking fluctuations, while our

5,000 unregistered members of 1936 came mainly from the street branches, a large number of them were on the rolls of our industrial units. When, in an effort to mobilize all our organizations to reduce the great fluctuation, we called in the industrial unit actives, we found the same situation there as existed in our street organizations, namely, in many instances there were perhaps eighteen out of forty or fifty missing, with no particular alarm felt by these units. In many cases the few comrades actively engaged in trade union work were too absorbed in their daily union work to take note of the situation existing in their own units, and comrades with every reason to remain in the Party were permitted to drift in and out with little attention paid to them. The section committees, the fractions and the trade union leadership, which should pay most particular attention to the industrial units, tended to neglect them. Generally there was a complacency about the inner situation of these units, each unit reporting at a conference of industrial unit bureaus that "We have very little fluctuation. We have registered *almost all of our members with the exception of seven or eight.*" Seven or eight, with some units having lost from ten to fifteen members in each of more than 150 units, and our fluctuation in the industrial units easily numbered 1,500! With proper guidance from the section committees, the fluctuation could have been reduced to really *almost none.*

As to the circulation of the *Daily Worker*, while some improvement was noticeable in the formative days of the industrial units, because of enthusiasm plus application to this most important phase of our work, there has been a noticeable decline in the recent period in the use of the *Daily Worker* as a medium through which to reach both the organized and unorganized industrial workers. This still remains a weak point in the work of our industrial units.

The dues payments and attendance at meetings of the industrial units are on a par with our street branches. This, in spite of the special form of organization, in most cases does not exceed 60 per cent of the membership.

## The Painters' Unit Reports

The report of one of the best industrial units, the Painters Local 905, will bring forward sharply the greatest shortcoming of the industrial unit:

"During the strike which our union conducted, the industrial unit initiated a movement for the establishment of a women's auxiliary. We have been responsible for initiating educational activities which the union never had before. We have also initiated sports activities.

"The most important and most successful phase of our work was recruiting. We have recruited about fifty workers into the unit. Every comrade is recruiting. *We lack activities for the comrades and have lost about fifteen or twenty members.* We believe that we can win them back, however.

"The unit has had some influence in the local, especially on the political phase of the work. We have been able to bring in, more and more, the political aspects of struggles. *The industrial unit in Local 905 has certainly justified its existence.*"

That the comrades feel justified in the existence of the industrial unit is apparent, but to say this and admit: "*We lack activities for the comrades and have lost about fifteen or twenty members*" requires at this point a somewhat different orientation to the entire role of the industrial unit. For what is true of the painters' unit is equally true of other industrial units.

In the main, the industrial units concern themselves with immediate trade union problems and do not simultaneously develop discussions around current issues and the Party program and platform, planning the work of each comrade around our entire program, so that there cannot be a "lack of activities for the comrades," and consequently fluctuation is reduced. For example, there are insufficient activities in the industrial units for the Labor Party movement. Comrades from these units can be assigned to Labor Party work in their neighborhoods.

As to the building of the *Daily Worker* circulation, there certainly can be plenty of activity for the comrades in the shops and unions. And even in those cases where it is not possible to distribute the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker* openly, the comrades can help secure thousands of home delivery and subscription orders through their co-workers.

These problems show that in the industrial units there is a certain lack of Party consciousness comparable to the situation formerly in the trade union fractions. Also, to some extent, a fear of exposure, existing formerly among many individuals in the reactionary trade unions, has crept in, preventing the units from coming forward boldly as Communist units in the unions, which certainly do not substitute or duplicate the independent trade union activity of the workers. Consequently there is not only a slow rate of recruiting, but the feeling exists, particularly among newly recruited members, that there is very little difference between being members of the trade unions and of the Party, and a greater tendency to drop out of the Party follows. The fact that Party trade union leaders, with rare exceptions, do not participate actively in the life of the industrial units is also a contributing factor to the present standstill in the further development of these units.

### **The Important Role of Industrial Units**

The industrial units have an important role to play. The fact that they are not entirely taking advantage of their possibilities can be remedied in many ways, primarily through better and more direct guidance from our section committees, which must involve themselves more in trade union work. They must learn the problems of the trade union movement and thereby become the leaders who will be recognized by our industrial unit comrades.

It has been widely recognized that with the formation of the industrial units the Party organizations in the neighborhoods are being almost completely depleted of industrial workers, and particularly of trade union members. On the other hand, the industrial unit members are mainly engaged in trade union activity (which in many instances con-

sists of no more than attendance at a union meeting periodically). A better understanding, through close guidance and leadership, will engender in our trade union comrades a Party consciousness and desire to further the aims and activity of our Party not only in the trade unions, but in their own neighborhoods.

It is necessary to bring many of our industrial unit comrades into their neighborhood activities, participating to the degree possible in each case in the activities of the Party in their own territory. There are many campaigns of the Party, such as the coming election campaign, the campaign against the high cost of living, rent, better schooling facilities, the campaign in defense of the loyalists in Spain, in which our industrial unit comrades could participate, if properly guided in these activities. This requires the closest attention on the part of all our Party actives, the section committees, the leaders of the trade unions, and the coordination of the work of the comrades, both in the industrial units and in the neighborhoods, by the state committee of the Party.

The industrial units of our Party are important Party organizations, and must be treated as such. They can and must be, if properly guided, instrumental in forming the basic units of our Party, the shop units. However, at the present time there is no orientation toward building shop organizations in any of our industrial units. What is needed is competent leadership, appraisal of their work, and the proper distribution of the work within their units.

Since the experience of our comrades in the industrial field is of great importance in helping to achieve our aims, we would welcome a frank, open discussion and suggestions contributed by these comrades. These suggestions will form the basis for a further and more penetrating discussion and for the solution of the weaknesses which exist in the present form of industrial units.

# An Understanding of the Y.C.L. Convention

By HARRY WINSTON

**T**HE Eighth National Convention of the Young Communist League is of the greatest significance to the Communist Party. The character of the Y.C.L. was clearly defined in the present period of League activity and growth. Two basic documents came out of the convention—the declaration of principles and the by-laws. These documents set forth the aims and objectives for the next period of time. They express not that which has already been achieved but what the Young Communist League is working for. It is clear that we are in a transitional period, a stage in which we must work radically to reconstruct the activities and work of the League. The League is still not the mass, popular, non-Party, anti-fascist youth organization that we would like it to be. Therefore a careful study of these documents is imperative if we are to transform the League in the light of the Eighth National Convention.

## The Character of the Y.C.L.

What is the character of the Young Communist League? Our conception is that the Y.C.L. is first and foremost an educational organization. Its education will be based upon the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, training and educating the youth, first, in loyalty to the cause of the working class and, second, in the spirit of proletarian internationalism. If the masses of the youth are to be educated in this spirit it is necessary to start from the particular interest of youth as a means of raising their general knowledge. This is the approach that is necessary if we are to bring the youth to the point of understanding the need for a new society. Such an education, to be successful, must be combined with practical activity—which also gives the League its other side—that of a service organization, first, to the labor movement and, second, to all mankind.

Who will come into the Y.C.L.? All youth, not only Communist, but youth who are willing to participate in the activities of the organization and work to build the Y.C.L. But such activities do not exclude teachings of the basic work of Marxism-Leninism. On the contrary it is the only way to teach the youth in a mass way.

Who then will join the League? Not only the most advanced youth of a given community or industry, but all youth who are attracted to it by its mass activities and are willing to participate in them and work to build the organization. But such an organization can be built only on the basis of making a thorough study of each community where we have a League, the people of that community and the interest of those young people. We can develop mass popular education among the youth if we take as a starting point the particular interest of the youth. We must begin to express our educational ideas among the youth in music, art, singing, writing and by scores of other methods.

### **Winning the Youth**

There are many mass organizations of youth in the country which have ideals, ideals in which they wish to rally the youth. We can take the Christian organizations as an example. They recognize that if they are to be successful in their efforts to bring the young people to the standpoint of Christianity they must take into consideration the youthful desires of these people—sports, amusements, classes, dramatics, handicrafts, etc., and by taking as a starting point the particular interest of the youth, they in turn can build a large organization. And so it is with the Y.C.L. If we are to bring the youth to an understanding of the need for a new society we must recognize this truth, and it is in this spirit that we must view the two documents of our Young Communist League. If such a League is to grow, consideration must be given to the further extension of the democracy within the organization. The old form of democratic centralism is not suitable for the new type of organization. But because we are not yet

the new type of organization we still have that form. The perspective is to give greater attention and more autonomy to the branch organization so as to stimulate more and more the initiative of the people in the branches, so that the major work of the branch be defined by the concrete circumstances in its territory of work.

### **Decisions Based on Work of Branch**

This means that decisions of higher bodies must be made on the basis of an intimate knowledge of each branch, coinciding with the latter's perspective, so as to avoid general schemes and approaches for all branches which cannot but result in the stifling of the initiative of the lower organization and the people in that organization.

The following seven sections, taken from the by-laws, express this fact:

SECTION 1. Charters for all branches of the Young Communist League shall be issued by the National Council.

SECTION 2. A branch shall consist of five or more members, which meets regularly at least once a month.

SECTION 3. Every branch shall have power to elect its own officers in accordance with the needs of the branch and the desires of its membership.

SECTION 4. Branch shall have the right to divide their membership into groups, squads or committees based on special interests, activities, or projects.

SECTION 5. All branches are to conduct such activities as is decided by a majority vote of the membership, in accordance with the general aims and purposes of the organization.

SECTION 6. All decisions and proposals of higher bodies shall be submitted to the membership for consideration and action.

SECTION 7. The National Council shall be the sole body having power to suspend or revoke any charter of any branch after due investigation and hearing. The branch shall have the right to appeal to the National Convention.

## Branches Must Interest the Youth

Comrade Gil Green at the Eighth National Convention pointed out that a good branch of the Y.C.L. was one which not only has friendly relations with other organizations in its territory of work but one which has its own youth center, athletics and social equipment, its own library and classes. All attention therefore must be given to the branch organization, its problems, its people, so as to develop a mass Young Communist League in each community.

The Party therefore can be invaluable in helping to establish youth centers within its territory, developing all of the wide activities as called for by the Eighth National Convention. Such a center developing all of the activities of youth according to their desires can grow into a mass organization in a short period of time.

The assigning of young Party people is most important to help develop the educational work of the Y.C.L.—lecturing, teaching classes of various kinds, developing young people for educational work. This can best be done if the Party examines its forces and assigns to the League those people who are musicians, artists, writers, sportsmen and others who can help develop a mass League. It is on this basis that the Party can help train masses of young Party comrades.

# The "Daily Worker" in Stamford

By SECTION COMMITTEE

IN STAMFORD the Yale and Towne Lock Shop has dominated the economic, political and social life of the working people for the last generation. The Lock Shop for many years has been our concentration. A Communist Party shop paper has been issued there for the past three years more or less regularly. Union activity was very small within the shop until four months ago. Many times our comrades stood at the shopgates at five p.m. when the workers were leaving and tried to sell the *Daily Worker*. If one copy was sold it seemed like a great accomplishment.

Today the picture is very different. The C.I.O. has been in town for four months and is doing a tremendous job of organizing the Stamford workers. Several smaller shops have already reached splendid agreements with the managements.

Realizing the importance of selling the *Daily Worker* now during the union organization drive Pearl Malkin volunteered to do this work. She got two other women comrades and a boy to help her. We placed an order for 10 copies of the *Daily Worker* per day. All ten were sold the first day. Before the increased order of 25 arrived they were selling all ten each day and turning down many who now asked for it.

The initiative which this comrade has shown makes us all realize that the workers want to read our press because it has the best trade union news. It makes us realize the importance of selling the *Daily Worker* at every shop in Stamford. Comrade Malkin intends to train the young boy so that she can leave him at one gate and then train another boy and so on until we have a corps of *Daily Worker* newsboys.

The new poster by Anderson—"Brother . . . that's my paper" is very attractive and we have pasted them on cardboard and use them as sandwich signs as well as in newspaper stores near the factories.

Party One  
July 37

# A Unit of Steel Women

By E. J.

OUR women have early realized the importance of tying education up with organization. Hence all our educational discussions ended with concrete tasks right at our own door. When we discussed Spain, for example, we showed that if, while sending aid to democratic Spain, we did not press forward to build our Party right where we were, we would not be putting up a real fight against fascism. So we ended this discussion with each one assuming responsibility for getting new recruits into our ranks. We know with recruits in the Party it is easy to build our steel auxiliary.

As we taught organization to our women we showed them the why of it, that is, we educated them on every point. We made up our minds early to be "like trees standing by the water" so far as letting our new recruits do difficult work under our guidance—instead of the easier way, doing all the work ourselves. We used patience and then more patience.

Seasoned Communists can sit through the longest meeting and decide questions, make proposals and plans, without becoming bored. New members, however, will jump off the subject and begin to talk about the frill on the new green dress and why it should be taken off and put on Mary's dress. Women will exchange cooking recipes or household hints even in a strategy meeting. So we relax once in a while too. We never mechanically push anything along. Rather we wait until the next day, then next week. On several points we had to wait until the next month while we helped solve more immediate personal problems for our members. And there is no joy on earth like seeing one of the recruits blossom and suddenly rise and take leadership.

Women respond quickly to education. All winter long we drilled our new unit on the value of the unit bureau. When the strike in another mill began, the bureau was

called immediately to discuss the situation and prepare proposals for the unit.

The unit decided among other things:

1. To organize a new unit among the women in the mill.
2. To get out a strike bulletin through the help of another auxiliary.
3. To organize relief.
4. To take necessary steps to get other women from unions and homes out to help on picket lines, etc.

Let us check up on these tasks to see some of the things we have already accomplished:

1. By the time this is published, the new unit will have been organized.
2. The strike bulletin, several thousand copies, is being distributed today at a tremendous mass meeting.
3. Relief is already coming in through our efforts, and committees of women from other unions are visiting the strike headquarters with greetings, etc., and helping in the kitchen.
4. No member has fallen down on her task, but many new ones have been added, as committees visiting scabs' homes, with excellent results.

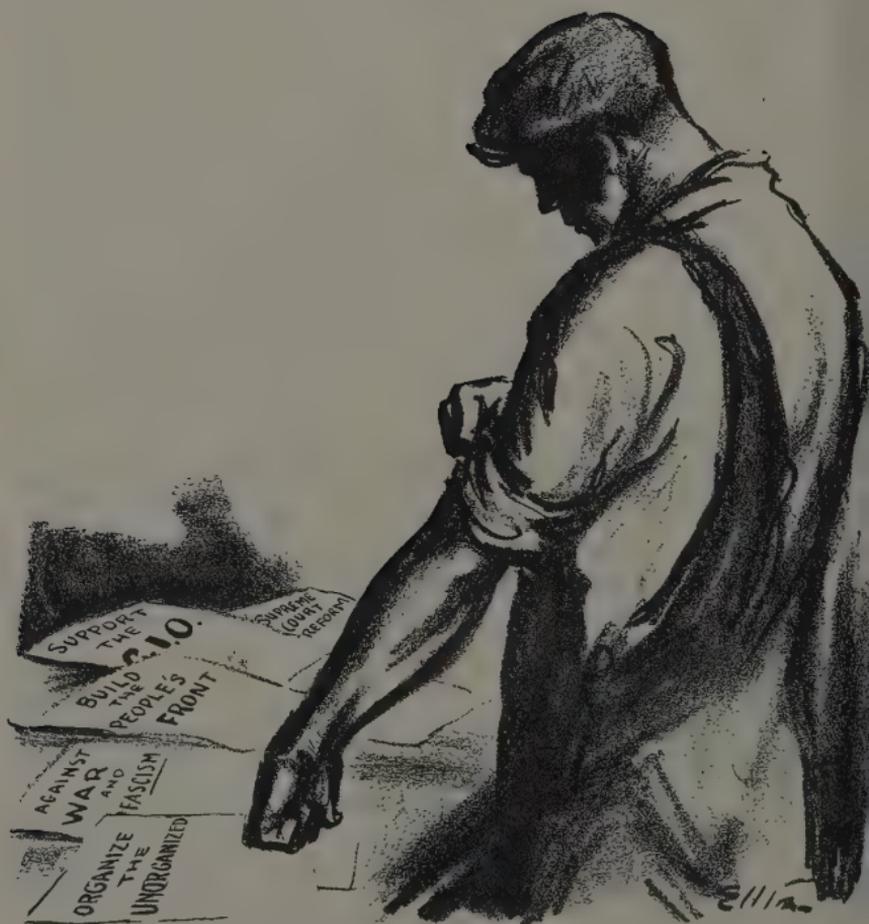
Because our unit is well organized, our auxiliary functions better too. The day of the strike, the women took the long trip, were on the picket line and ready with the kitchen before there was even a hall rented by the strike committee. The strike committee found the hall attached to the kitchen a good hall so it was used as strike headquarters.

Thus, the women had well established themselves and won the respect of the strikers and without any question were represented on the strike committee.

Our work went smoothly. And one of our best aids was the pamphlet *What Means a Strike in Steel*, by our beloved Foster, which we used as material for three educational meetings. We women are proud of each other, and all we hear is—"That's because we organized a Party unit." Our unit is 100 per cent active.

# BIG TASKS AHEAD!

by Ellis



# The Party Comes Forward

By M. CHILDS

**WE HAD** an enlarged meeting of our Southern Illinois Sub-District Committee, attended by 50 people, at which the central point of discussion was the building of the Party and increasing the circulation of the Party press in the light of our tasks.

All the comrades who participated in the discussion admitted that there are great possibilities if we but organize ourselves to keep the Party before the masses as a political organization. The big trouble in Southern Illinois was that the Party became so involved in trade union problems, particularly in the fight for unity, that it lost sight of its independent role; it did not bring to the fore other issues concerning the masses. We had to have some very elementary discussions as to what the Party is, the role of the Party, and the difference between the Party and the trade union, the Party's work in the united and people's front, etc.

## The Masses Respond to the Party

When the Party undertakes tasks in its own name, the masses respond. In Peoria, for example, there is a newly organized union in the Caterpillar, a plant with over 12,000 workers. The political level was very low. The Party has organized an educational circle, to which we invite workers from the union to discuss such problems as are not discussed in the local union at the present time. Last week 40 workers, among them the most militant and active ones, attended our discussion circle.

At their lodge meeting the other day, a worker raised the question of some group meeting secretly and wanted to know who was behind it and what was the purpose. One of the workers who attended took the floor and explained that it was no secret meeting, that it was an educational meeting and that his only regret was that it was not held in

the union hall where all would have had the opportunity to be present to hear the message of the Communist Party.

The result was that many of the workers after the union meeting came to our section organizer and asked to be invited to the next meeting, wanting to know when it could be held and if they could come. We are sure that at the next meeting there will be many more Caterpillar workers. These meetings bring the Party into the open, educate the workers, elevate their class consciousness and prepare them for the Party. Recruiting immediately increases when we carry on such activities.

## May Day in Rural New Jersey

By ERIC LINDSTROM

**M**AY DAY celebrations in rural areas have always left much to be desired. Our Party is weak. Therefore we haven't been able to mobilize enough people to stage an effective street parade. So May Day was, and still is, usually celebrated by indoor meetings with an out-of-town speaker. The meetings are almost invariably small. The vast majority of the rural population within the area do not know that May Day is a worker's holiday and is celebrated as such.

This year in South Jersey the Section decided to experiment with a new form of May Day celebration. We would hold two indoor meetings in two different towns, which would probably be attended by not more than two hundred people. Many of these people wouldn't march in the streets, so we couldn't hold a parade. But we could do something else which would for the first time bring May Day to several thousand South Jersey people.

Motor caravans to celebrate or popularize some occasion are fairly common in most farm areas. When the local politicians campaign, they organize motorcades with signs. At night they use red flares. When someone gets married

it is common to decorate cars with streamers and honk your way through a few towns. Chambers of commerce organize motor parades to advertise the wares of their members. Sales promotion campaigns by outside agencies are accompanied by smaller motor caravans led by a sound truck.

Once before we had used this form of demonstration. When Bill O'Donnell was framed for six months in an unemployed struggle we got eighty cars together, brought red flares, painted signs, and drove through five towns and around the jail. It was our most effective protest. O'Donnell was released unconditionally after serving twenty-three days only.

This year the Party organized a motor caravan for May Day. It was Saturday and the streets of our rural towns were swollen to three and four times the usual population.

We didn't make extensive preparations because we felt that many car owners might hesitate to expose themselves in this way. We were wrong in this approach. But as a result of our meager preparations twenty cars and one truck showed up—all loaded with people. That made a parade nearly three blocks long—as long as the main street of some of the towns we went through.

Banners and signs were tied or nailed to all the cars and the truck. These signs called upon the people to organize a Farmer-Labor Party, to join unions, to defend Spanish democracy, to support the President's Supreme Court proposals, to defeat amendments to the Wagner Act, etc. We had copies of the May Day issue of the *Daily Worker*, May Day circulars and pamphlets.

### **The Parade Begins**

With this equipment we started out. Vineland was the first town. We started honking our horns as soon as we got within the city limits. Twenty horns blowing simultaneously make a very effective noise. People appeared from houses and stores ahead of us and lined up along the curb when we passed by.

The police tried to stop the blowing of horns. But the

police were ignored. If Sears Roebuck can advertise refrigerators with a sound truck on Main Street we felt that the workers and farmers could advertise May Day by making a little noise once a year.

We repeated this practice in five different rural towns—Vineland, Millville, Bridgeton, Rosenhyn and Norma. We distributed our literature in the towns as well as to farmers between the towns who came to the road to watch the parade.

Party members stood on the streets of Millville and Bridgeton to get the reaction of the people who watched the parade. In Millville the comments were all favorable. One watcher said it was too bad that a hundred cars weren't in the parade. In Bridgeton several people accused the Communists of organizing the parade and suggested that such parades be banned. A worker standing nearby immediately came to the defense of the parade saying he agreed with all the signs and that South Jersey needed more such parades.

On the basis of this first experiment the Section Bureau of the Party decided that the parade was a great success and that it should become one of the accepted forms of celebrating May Day in South Jersey in the future.

On the basis of this experience we have decided to remedy a number of shortcomings which will make next year's parade many more times as effective as that of this year.

In the first place we will broaden the participation. Farmers' organizations, trade unions and unemployed groups will be invited to participate and center floats and cars of members.

A sound truck should precede the parade, decorated with appropriate slogans and with the speakers making short talks.

With these corrections next year's parade will be much larger and more impressive. By starting earlier than 2 p.m. the parade will be able to cover eight or ten towns instead of the five this year, as well as the farm areas between towns.

With motorcades we can bring our message, whether May Day or other, to thousands of rural people who would otherwise never be contacted.

## The Traveling Bookstore Rolls Along

By JOE FIELDS

THE experience gained on the second trip of San Francisco's literature van or traveling bookstore is of tremendous value. The truck covered 1,310 miles between May 13 and May 22. The total expenses were \$24.97; total sales were \$92.34.

Arriving in Carmel, May 13, the comrade in charge of the truck found that through a misunderstanding, the meeting which had been planned there had to be postponed for the next trip. He proceeded to Monterey where on May 14, a meeting was called and a quantity of literature sold.

This group showed a great deal of interest and earnestly requested that they be permitted to arrange another and larger meeting in thirty days. By this time, the comrades learned that the A. F. of L. meeting at which they had planned to sell literature on May 15 and 16 had been postponed for a week. As the truck could not wait, it was decided to go to Pismo Beach. There a meeting was quickly organized at the home of a sympathizer at Oceano at which 17 were present, the only Communist Party member being the comrade in charge of the truck. Eight dollars worth of literature was sold, including a set of *Soviet Communism*, toward the purchase of which many of those present contributed, with the plan that each one would have an opportunity to read it. Every one present at this meeting was anxious for more such meetings and some excellent new contacts were made. The organizer of the

Workers Alliance at Paso Robles, for instance, promised he would muster at least fifty people to a meeting if the truck would visit his town.

### **How Literature Helps Build the People's Front**

On May 17 a meeting was held at the home of a new recruit at Baywood Park. Among those present were three workers who represented the Friends of New Germany—or who thought they did, until the question period when it developed that they were simply backward and misled workers. At the beginning of the meeting, they offered some mimeographed literature issued by the Friends of New Germany, but the other workers present quickly told them what they thought of Hitler and Mussolini. The comrade in charge of the literature truck centered his talk mainly against fascism and Hitler and succeeded in selling \$7.00 worth of literature.

On May 18 open house was held at the Workers Center in Santa Barbara, between the hours of 2 and 11 p. m. Although 200 invitations had been sent out for this meeting, only Party members showed up. The reason became obvious when it was explained that such invitations would only be responded to if the meetings were held in private homes—at least until the people became more conscious of what our Party was doing for them. Twenty-two dollars worth of literature was sold and two more meetings were arranged to take place in thirty days, one in the afternoon at a private home, the other in the Workers Center in the evening.

On May 19, some fifteen attended a meeting at the home of a comrade in San Bernardino. Ten of those present were Party members, one an ex-Party member and four sympathizers. As the meeting was poorly prepared only about \$1.25 worth of literature was sold. However, the Workers Bookshop in San Bernardino purchased \$15.00 worth of literature and was encouraged to launch a sale and advertise it in the local newspapers. The sales of the bookshop this month will exceed \$100, the largest amount sold during any period for over a year.

## Literature Helps Solve a Problem of Strike Strategy

On May 20, a meeting was arranged in a large boarding house with nine members of the Strike Committee of a C.I.O. union in San Bernardino present. These workers had been sold out by their leadership, old line A. F. of L. bureaucrats. The plant had recognized the A. F. of L. union, signed a contract, and informed the workers that all who refused to join this union by June 1 would be fired. The workers were highly indignant and were determined to quit, regarding the A. F. of L. union as a company union. The comrade in charge of the literature truck was able to explain to these workers the danger of such a step, and that while little could be done from the outside, much could be achieved by working inside the union. He impressed them with the importance of not isolating themselves from the rank-and-file of the workers, but of staying with them and helping them isolate the reactionary leadership and build the union along progressive lines. He succeeded in convincing them of the correctness of this policy, and \$1.25 worth of C.I.O. pamphlets and the *Fate of the Trade Unions Under Fascism* were sold.

It was intended that May 21 be devoted to the meeting with the Women's Auxiliary of the C.I.O. union of tunnel workers, with a view to getting the auxiliary to sell *Health and Hygiene* and also to adopt *The Woman Today* as its official organ. Here a serious situation was uncovered. Even before the meeting was called a discussion was held with the Party members on the above question, and although a few of the comrades in the fraction took the floor and explained the importance of getting the auxiliary to read and distribute this type of literature, the Party members as a whole voted the proposition down. The excuse given was to the effect that this was not a Communist organization but a mass organization, and that they should not allow politics to enter. The comrade in charge of the literature truck attempted to straighten out some of the confusion which existed in this fraction in regard to this and their other trade union problems, and on his return

was able to called to the attention of the section leadership the unhealthy situation which existed in this fraction.

### **A Banner Evening of Literature Sales**

May 22 was a banner evening for the literature truck. That night a meeting was held at the home of a political incumbent. In attendance were Mexican fruit pickers, workers, school teachers, newspaper reporters, strike committees, small business people, all of whom were eager to hear a talk on the international situation, the fight of the progressive forces against war and fascism, the significance of the trade union movement, unemployment, etc. Over \$20.00 worth of literature was sold at this meeting, most of which was theoretical. The group, which was highly enthusiastic and responsive, offered to hold a meeting with fifty people present on the next trip.

The value of the literature van can hardly be overestimated. Its original objective of bringing "literature to the masses" became only one of its many functions. It acted as a real Party builder and a builder of the People's Front. It acted as an organizer, helping the comrades in the outlying towns to solve their problems and difficulties. It brought to isolated comrades or groups of comrades direct guidance and leadership from the center. It stimulated and encouraged these comrades and sympathizers to renewed activity in recruiting, organizing the unorganized, building the circulation of the Party press, and furthering the fight against war and fascism. It created new centers of literature distribution, placing definite responsibilities for this work all year round on definite comrades. Last, but not least, it helped to raise funds for the Party.

Already, stimulated by the experience of San Francisco, New Haven is planning to send out a literature van through the western part of Connecticut and Massachusetts. Other districts can greatly strengthen their ties with the outlying towns and cities and help crystallize and organize the anti-fascist sentiments of thousands through the use of literature trucks.

Let us have more and better traveling bookstores.

# New York State Section

ISSUED BY NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY

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## "Regularly Issued"

By SAM ROBINSON

THE experience of the municipal civil service unit of Section 1 has been that its shop paper is worth every bit of effort put into it, and more.

Publication of the *Manhattan Municipal Employee* was started in May, 1936. It was a crude effort, technically and politically. The response to this first effort was entirely negative.

The unit grew and with it the shop paper. In September, the format was changed from the original photo-offset process to a three column printed paper, 8-1/2 x 11. The journalism and political content of the paper improved month by month. We stressed local economic and political issues.

### Our Paper Improves

The circulation grew from 2,000 to 5,000 copies. For the special May Day edition this year we put out a six-page *New York Municipal Employee*. (Note the change of name indicating the enlargement of the scope of the publication.)

The response improved steadily. The editorial staff received considerable correspondence from employees and even from department officials, who were disturbed by some of our articles and worried about its effect on the employees.

All reader correspondence is answered and there is always a considerable amount of material for our "Readers' Voice" column, generally more than we can handle.

In places where there has been a regular distribution of the paper, comrades report a marked increase in the militancy and political awareness of the workers. Results show a very significant reduction and loss of effectiveness of the Red scare.

This is true not only of the Mayor's departments but even in those offices dominated by Tammany officials. Workers finding themselves in agreement with the editorial policy of the paper (particularly on the local issues), and impressed by its direct stand on these issues, are reluctant to believe that it is a Communist paper, even though it is clearly stated so in the masthead, and have expressed the desire to "get into the outfit that puts out the paper."

### **Our Paper Breaks Down the Red Scare**

We consider this breaking down of the Red scare the greatest achievement of our paper. On the other hand, in city departments where there is only an intermittent distribution of the paper, the comrades report that the Red scare is still prevalent. To date, however, there has been no attempt at discrimination against suspected editors, nor even against sympathizers or progressives.

The paper was distributed regularly to delegates to the Civil Service Forum, a semi-company union dominated by Prial. In spite of the direct attacks on the paper during the course of the meeting by Prial, each delegate who received a paper carefully tucked it away to show to his fellow workers on the job. At first no vigorous attempt was made to halt such distributions, but later, when he saw that his speeches were not very effective, Prial tried to have it stopped, and he was able to make the May issue distribution ineffective.

A considerable part of the cost of the paper is covered by contributions from sympathizers. Distributors have had people walk over and hand them various sums from 10 cents to a dollar. One anonymous person left five dollars to help us along. But as yet we have just barely started to capitalize on this latent support. The bulk of the expenses is covered by affairs run by the units.

The paper is now being published by an editorial staff consisting of a delegate from each participating unit. The editor-in-chief is elected by the editorial staff and his position is an important one.

The aim of the paper is to reach a circulation of 10,000, to be issued bi-monthly with a distribution at all the main municipal offices and plants of the city. Such a paper would have a tremendous political effect and be a real threat to the Tammany machine power in New York.

## A Mother and Child Unit

By SOPHIA OCKEN

**“WE ARE a unit of mother and child!”** the mother organizer proudly proclaimed at a recent section meeting.

And, indeed, the baby is as important a factor as the mother in this unit. Through them, the mothers have penetrated and penetrated. Through them the mothers are breaking down the prejudices of a backward neighborhood, the inefficiency of the neighborhood milk station. Through them, the mothers are getting into bourgeois women's clubs.

They were the means by which thousands of signatures were gathered appealing for more playgrounds for a parkless part of our city. They it was that helped retain the playground the city threatened to close.

“Our babies are our entrance cards in the class struggle in the neighborhood,” the mothers unit declares.

\* \* \*

The Mothers' Unit of Section 3 was started about six months ago. Four mothers, finding it impossible to attend branch meetings because of their babies and their household duties, tried to solve this problem by forming a

day unit. Their work at first was to be confined to work among women attending the neighborhood milk station and among the mothers who flocked to the altogether inadequate park in our neighborhood for a bit of sunlight and air.

Work among these women was not difficult—for there was the baby, the greatest of all issues, and there were the women, all working class mothers who would fight for their very lives to obtain a better life for their babies.

A campaign for more parks was first instituted. This was done through many important organizations in the neighborhood, our mothers leading in the work. Thousands of signatures were collected; two delegations were sent to our assemblyman, and in a few days another will call on the mayor. A mass meeting will be the outcome and in this we expect to involve many neighborhood organizations.

Another successful struggle was around the Home Relief Bureau in our neighborhood. The mothers, together with the local of the Workers' Alliance, staged a sit-down, and baby and mother refused to move until relief was secured for a family in the neighborhood that had been evicted. Other relief applications which had been held up were settled at the same time. Baby carriages all over the place, and a clothesline strung up in the relief station dramatically brought the situation to the public.

Difficulties and problems of actual organizational work came up a-plenty. The unit now consists of *twelve* mothers. However, attendance at unit meetings is the great problem. It is difficult for working class mothers to find time to get away from their household duties. What little time they have they want to spend outdoors with the baby. We tried changing the meetings to the evening, but then found that we were up against husbands who refused to stay home with the baby, or husbands who were ignorant of the wives' new status, and would question and dictate.

To solve this problem, the women are planning weekly excursions to Central Park. Here the comrades will alternate in taking care of the children while the other mothers hold discussion groups. It is planned to have a short busi-

ness meeting indoors once a week where plans will be discussed and assignments made. The bureau will plan these meetings carefully so that the women will not have to stay indoors too long.

The mothers are now not only working among women in the parks and those attending the milk station, but each one of them has been assigned to some mass organization in the territory. One important concentration point is an auxiliary of wives of seamen.

Many of our mothers are Irish Catholic and every single one of them is part and parcel of the neighborhood. They feel the throb of the neighborhood; they know its heart pangs; they are militant, these pioneer women out to blaze a new trail. They have the children, they have the Party and its organizational apparatus, they have the quality of vanguardism. Through them, and with them, other mothers and their babies will carry on the struggle—to make their neighborhood a better place to live, at the same time fighting for the ultimate happiness that only socialism can bring.

## Human Beings

By H. W.

**D**EAR Comrade Amter,  
I am writing this letter to you not as a personal issue that concerns myself, but from a broader viewpoint, that which concerns people.

My opinion is that until our movement—the Party, the Young Communist League, etc.—realizes that its members are human being and want to be treated as such and not just a cog in the wheel, our movement will remain small, no matter how many members we attract and recruit.

If we do not treat our members as if they were valuable and meant something to us, we will always have a tremendous fluctuation and remain weak and small.

To get down to the issue involved. I joined the Young Communist League four and a half years ago. I immediately became very active and in six months' time became Section Organizational Secretary in Section 24.

I carried out my work well and devoted every hour to building and strengthening the League. Later I was elected Section Organizer. I acted in that capacity for almost a year until I became pregnant. Even after a comrade took my place I still carried on and became election campaign fund manager and our Section went over the top and exceeded our quota of \$500.

After that I was transferred to Section 16. I attended both my Party and League meetings until my ninth month and did as much work as I possibly could.

I took a leave of absence two weeks before my baby was born.

Since giving birth to my baby only two comrades have visited me. My Party unit knew about it and not *one* comrades came to see me. The leading comrades from my old Section and also the Y.C.L. found out and two comrades who I was especially friendly with came to visit me.

My Y.C.L. branch in Section 16 sends me cards every week to attend meetings. How can the Y.C.L. grow and become a mass organization if all it does is to send postcards to members who do not attend for weeks? Can't they find time to visit a comrade to find out *why* their members stay away from meetings? How many postcards are sent with absolutely no results?

I know every comrade is very busy but I feel that time can be found to visit a comrade who did good work and who at present, due to unavoidable circumstances, cannot be active. Truthfully, Comrade Amter, it makes me feel that all the work and energy I put into the movement did not mean anything to anyone.

If it did, everyone in the Party and the Y.C.L. who worked with me would find time to visit me or write to me,

and would make me feel that I and my baby mean something.

Another thing. I miss my work and the comrades I worked with for years and would welcome seeing my old comrades. If I did not take our Party as seriously as I do something like this could very easily discourage me and chase me away from the movement completely. It never will, though, and as soon as I am able I intend getting back into activity, but someone who hasn't been with us as long as I have can easily be discouraged with such treatment.

If this situation is brought sharply to our leading comrades' attention, more of our Party members will be treated as human being and as a result we will see our Party and Y.C.L. grow tremendously.

Comradely yours,  
H. W.

\* \* \*

Certainly the manner in which the comrades have acted towards such a hard-working comrade is incorrect.

A new comrade can easily become discouraged if he feels that once he is out of action for very good cause, he is neglected, or forgotten by Party members. Many times new comrades are lost to the Party and Y.C.L. just for this reason!

In short it is necessary for us to develop in the Party and Y.C.L. the knowledge that we are not only fellows in a common struggle but are real comrades in the same organization. There must be developed a real comradely spirit, helping one another so that we may develop into better revolutionists in the cause of the working class!

I. Amter

New York State Organizer

# On "New Forms"

By L. WALTERS

FOR a long time now Branch 11 of Section 17 has been discussing "new forms." Here's one we tried that has proven to be very successful. Instead of calling new recruits to a bureau meeting, or worse still, letting our comrades sit around for months and then realizing one day that we have lost some of them and begin to wonder why, we decided to call a "New Members' Tea."

This was attended by a few members of the Bureau, our recent recruits, plus two sympathizers brought by one of the new members. It was an informal afternoon, and over the tea cups we asked the new members how they had been impressed by the first few meetings they had attended, what criticism they had to offer regarding the handling of the meeting, etc., and most important, what kind of work they would like to do best in the Party. The comrades were very outspoken. They were glad of just such an opportunity. They had been looking for it, and were waiting for us to approach them.

We feel, therefore, that we have accomplished a number of fine things from this gathering. First, these people immediately began to feel at home in the Party. They know that there is work to be done that coincides with their interests. We know that they will be good comrades because they will be doing the kind of work they want to, the work that will make them happiest.

And what pleased us most was the fact that the two sympathizers, because they were so favorably impressed by the friendliness of the gathering and the honesty with which our problems and work were discussed, signed applications for the Party right there.

These little parties are going to become a regular part of our work. The first one was successful and we think those in the future will be more so.