

# PARTY . . . ORGANIZER

SEPTEMBER • 1937 •

**Build the Party!**

**The Party in the Steel Strike**  
—Lawson

**Forward Toward Building a Mass  
Party in Textile** —Gordon

**Literature and Party  
Building** —Trachtenberg

**A "Turn to the Masses" in Our  
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**Build the I.L.D.!** —Brown

**Neighborhood Concentration**  
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# PARTY ORGANIZER

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## Build the Party!

FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND LIBERTY — FOR A PEOPLE'S  
FRONT, FOR SOCIALISM!

From the Directives of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party

for a

**TWO-MONTH MASS RECRUITING CAMPAIGN —  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1937**

**T**HE June Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, analyzing the development of the People's Front movement in America and the tasks of our Party, placed as the central issue before our membership, to build the Party and the circulation of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*.

As a step in this direction, the Central Committee proposes a two-month recruiting campaign to take place in September and October, culminating in a National Party Builders' Congress to be held in New York in November.

### For Mass Recruiting

The two-month recruiting campaign is a drive for mass recruiting. Our Party everywhere has established close contacts with thousands of people who have cooperated with us in united front activity. These elements can be brought into the Party. We have recruited in recent months many outstanding builders of the C.I.O. unions

and militant leaders in the people's struggle for liberty and progress. Through these people who have the confidence of masses, our Party is now in a position to recruit not hundreds, but many thousands into our ranks. This must be our goal.

## PLAN OF CAMPAIGN

### I. August Preparations

The month of August shall be utilized to prepare our Party for the Drive.

Main emphasis shall be placed upon the mobilization of the lower Party organizations—the branches, industrial units, shop nuclei, women's units.

These shall call special meetings in August to plan their activities in detail for September and October, decide upon points and methods of concentration, prepare for open unit meetings, organized canvassing of prospects, mass meetings, social evenings, etc.

Every individual member of the unit shall be called upon to give the names of possible recruits—members of his or her family; friends; shopmates; members of trade unions; I.W.O. branch; community organization; etc. The Party comrade shall designate those whom he or she will personally contact, and other names shall be turned over to special recruiting commissions and shock brigades to be set up by the units.

Special attention shall be paid to the listing of those members recruited in 1936-1937, who have since dropped out of our ranks, though continuing to accept the leadership of our Party. Throughout the recruiting campaign, let us make every effort to bring these former members back.

A direct personal appeal, signed by Comrades Browder and Foster for the Central Committee, shall be distributed to all Party members, calling upon each one to become a Party builder, and concretely suggesting what each member can do.

Literature shall be obtained so that all comrades may

be equipped with agitational material when the drive starts on September 1st. Arrangements shall be made for increased orders of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker* for recruiting purposes.

While the Central Committee proposes no definite quotas for recruiting, each unit should on its own initiative accept as its task in the drive definite responsibility for a minimum recruitment, based upon a thorough discussion of concrete possibilities. Let us encourage also the taking of recruiting pledges by individual members.

## II. Methods of Work

1. The Party leadership on a district, county and section scale shall give personal direction to the campaign.

2. Attention shall be centered on involving key comrades in factories and mass organizations, trade unions in the first place, directly in the leadership of recruiting their organization or industry.

In every district, and in key industrial centers, leading comrades in the trade unions shall be called together into special meetings with the state committee leaders present, to discuss concretely how we can bring masses of active trade unionists into the Party. We must place definite responsibility upon these Party leaders who have wide mass contact so that they themselves participate in the recruiting campaign, but methods of such participation shall be worked out with these comrades in accordance with their particular situation. Recruiting teams and shock brigades shall be set up to give them necessary assistance.

The recruiting commissions set up from among Party comrades, active in the trade unions, shall receive continuous systematic guidance by the leading Party committees. However, recruiting shall not be limited to these special commissions, but shall involve all Party members in these unions.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that the Party members who are active in building the trade unions can and must become instrumental in winning recruits for our Party. Their mass contacts, their experience, their under-

standing of the situation in their organization must be utilized to the fullest in the recruiting campaign.

3. The drive shall be based on the fundamental policy of concentration, selecting industries, trade unions, shops, cities, national groups, accordingly.

4. We shall revive the method of Socialist competition among branches, shop and industrial units; among individuals and shock brigades on a district, city, and county scale; among comrades and teams in mass organizations; between states, cities, sections, counties—awarding prizes through leading committees or units to the winners.

5. The districts shall take measures to mobilize the best recruiting forces and Party builders for special activity.

These comrades shall be called together and organized as the driving force in the campaign. They shall adopt resolutions and be encouraged to take individual pledges. They shall be involved in Socialist competition to strive for the honor of being chosen as delegates to the National Congress of Party Builders Delegates on the basis of their achievements in the drive.

They shall report their experiences and methods at membership and committee meetings, unit meetings, etc. Their activities and achievements shall be popularized in the district, and in our press.

6. The Party apparatus must be geared to the reception of new members.

Unit and branch meetings in September and October must be so planned, have such an educational and social content, as will interest the new comrades and give them a better understanding of the functioning of our Party. New members' units and classes should be extended. All preliminary arrangements shall be made to enable the Party apparatus at once to assign the new members to their units, so that no one's application shall be held up, and the member lost through organizational carelessness and negligence.

The initiation of new members shall be made the occasion for special meetings and celebrations in the units and

on a larger scale, with the Party pledge to be taken. Such events shall be so organized, under a warm, comradely atmosphere, as to strengthen the unity of our ranks, establish personal ties between the new comrade and the Party, and influence them in turn to become Party builders.

In general, the recruiting drive period shall be utilized to improve our organizational methods of work, the activities and life of the units. We will succeed in this task to the extent that the leading committees give close attention to the lower organizations of the Party. This is fundamental if we are to retain the thousands of new members that will join our ranks, and decrease fluctuation.

7. State Party Builders Delegates Congresses shall be held in the leading districts at the end of the drive.

8. An organized campaign demands systematic, regular control of decisions, by all Party committees, and in all lower Party organizations.

Control means: Daily check-up on fulfillment of plans and decisions by all recruiting commissions, nationally, in the districts and locally; also regular review of the campaign at the state committee and bureau meetings. To hold meetings of Party leaders in mass organizations, trade unions in the first place, with the state secretary or organizer present, to review their activity and make further plans. To review systematically the work of recruiting teams, commissions, shock brigades; to place recruiting on the agenda of each unit or branch meeting during the drive, checking up on the pledges of each member. Recruiting drive bulletins and wall papers can be used to further such control and stimulate interest.

### **III. Agitation-Propaganda**

1. Mass agitation and propaganda are fundamental in the recruiting campaign.

The program of our Party must be widely popularized through mass meetings, lectures, leaflets, pamphlets, shop papers, and other means. The role of our Party must be clarified not simply in mechanical relation to the recruiting drive, but as an integral part of the agitation and pro-

paganda in all activities and campaigns of the Party. This shall receive special attention in the municipal campaigns of the Party. This shall receive special attention in the municipal elections in New York and elsewhere throughout the country.

2. The *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*, and the foreign language press.

The *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*, as basic agitation and propaganda instruments with which to influence potential recruits, shall be extensively utilized in an organized manner in the recruiting drive, thus laying the ground for systematic increase in circulation. At the same time, the Communist foreign-language press shall develop a broad campaign for Party recruiting among the foreign-born workers.

#### **IV. Approach to Special Strata and Groups**

1. All districts shall give special attention to the problem of winning Negro masses for the Party. Negro forces shall be brought forward as organizers and agitators in the drive. Efforts shall be made particularly to recruit from among the Negro masses newly organized in the basic industries.

2. Special consideration shall be given to the recruiting of women, especially from the newly organized industries, from auxiliaries in steel, auto, etc.

3. Militant, progressive forces among the farmers and the middle class generally, among intellectuals and professional people, should be brought into the Party. These groups must be won as allies for the working class, in the struggle for the People's Front.

4. In contacting prospective candidates for Party membership, attention shall be paid to the recruitment of young people.

#### **V. The National Party Builders' Delegates Congress**

The September-October recruiting drive shall culminate in a National Party Builders Delegates Congress to be held in New York early in November.

Districts shall be entitled to send delegates to the Congress on the basis of the number of new members recruited during the drive, these delegates to be chosen from among the Party builders who have most distinguished themselves in the number and quality of new recruits during the drive.

The Congress shall be widely popularized throughout the recruiting campaign, serving thus as an incentive for Socialist competition, and for maximum recruitment in the districts.

### **Immediate Action Needed**

The Party membership can now be increased by many thousands. The objective conditions are ripe. It is now our task, our responsibility. The growth of the Party depends upon our own efforts and will! We must make the slogan, *Build the Party!* the center of discussion and action among our tens of thousands of members and among the broad masses of our sympathizers.

Forward to build a strong and powerful Communist Party capable of leading the people in the tremendous class battles ahead, for a People's Front, for Socialism!

## **The Party in the Steel Strike in Indiana Harbor**

By J. LAWSON

**T**HE steel strike, involving close to 80,000 workers in the mills affected, found some 18,000 of these in the two main mills in Indiana Harbor, the Inland and the Youngstown Sheet & Tube. That both companies, trying hard as they did, did not succeed in any of their attempts to get enough forces to break through the picket lines was due to the well organized strike machinery and the solidarity of the strikers.

Sept 37 in Indiana

The union leadership, realizing the need of uniting all progressive forces in support of the strike, took measures to organize and involve the people, not permitting the company stooges to take the initiative to use these forces against the strikers. Mass meetings of different nationalities were held. Language groups have taken over specific days for picketing. Meetings were held with ex-servicemen, the American Legion and the V.F.W. There were women's picket days twice a week, as well as the children who came in hundreds on some Saturdays. All this helped in finally bringing the companies to the realization that they could not break the spirit of the strikers and agreements were signed by the companies through the medium of the Governor's office. It is noteworthy to mention here that the I.W.O. was of tremendous help in the strike, raising relief, organizing language mass meetings and thereby established its prestige among the workers in the entire county.

#### **Problems and Difficulties of Our Party**

The Party organization in Indiana Harbor before the strike consisted of one city branch and one branch in each of the mills. We must state at the outset that the Party organization was really not prepared as an independent political force for effective participation in the strike. The members as individuals were very actively involved in all strike activities, on the picket lines, in organizing relief, in other strike committees. But the Party as an organization did not function in the mills or in the strike as a whole.

The most difficult thing was to get the Party organization together. The comrades could find time for any other work necessary, but not for Party meetings. Why was it necessary to have such meetings? To discuss the political aspects of the strike here in relation to the steel strike as a whole and how to bring these forward to the workers; to discuss the political developments in our own county in relation to the strike; methods of developing and consolidating the People's Front movement as started in connection with the conduct of the strike; methods of

bringing forward the Party organization as an independent factor in this entire situation. It is only as a result of such activities that we can build the Party and the circulation of the *Daily Worker*. The fact that we were unable to get regular meetings of the Party indicates that the comrades really did not see the political need for the Party organization to function particularly during the strike.

This tendency to submerge the Party organization to the mass movements is basically the reason for the slow growth of our Party under the present favorable conditions. The *Daily Worker* for instance, and particularly the special Chicago Supplement gotten out daily at a great sacrifice, was the only paper supporting the strike, and was appreciated by the workers. The fact that hundreds of copies were sold daily, whenever we had enough people to sell them, proves that. The workers realized and appreciated the role of the Party in the strike, but we could not convince the comrades of the need of the Party as an organization coming forward and speak to workers during the strike. With great difficulties did we succeed in organizing one open mass meeting by the Party in Indiana Harbor. And had our comrades realized the importance of it, we surely could have built a bigger meeting than we had.

The whole problem of our comrades working in mass organizations, particularly in trade unions, losing sight of their role as Communists "tends to liquidate our Party into the mass trade union movements" as Comrade Foster correctly characterized this tendency at the recent plenum of the Central Committee. The result is very unsatisfactory recruiting. We did recruit some twenty-five members into the Party during the strike, including a number of women who have done a splendid job. Very few of these, however, were gotten in through the efforts of our people who were actively engaged in strike activities.

The task now before the Party in Indiana Harbor is: to consolidate its organization and educate the membership as to its role in the mass trade union movement; to

draw the lessons of the strike in relation to the role of the city administration and bring before the workers the need for independent political action through the formation of Labor's Non-Partisan League; to become a real organized factor in consolidating the union.

The carrying through of these tasks in a proper manner will enable us to convince the workers of the correct leadership of the Party, and thus will we be able to overcome the lag in recruiting, and build the circulation of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*.

## Forward Toward Building A Mass Party in Textile

By EVELYN B. GORDON

**A**T PRESENT the textile workers are involved in one of their biggest, best financed and organized campaigns to unionize the whole industry. Over 125,000 workers are already working under agreements signed by the Textile Workers Organizing Committee of the C.I.O.

All Party textile comrades are actively participating in this great textile drive. This is as it should be. The most important duty of a Communist is to organize the unorganized. But what about developing the class-consciousness of these new union men and women? What about bringing to them the political campaigns of the Party?

For the last few years, very little attention has been paid by our Party to recruiting textile workers. At first we were actively engaged in building and uniting the union. While here and there we recruited a few textile workers, the number of such Party members is not large enough.

In the Resolution of the Central Committee of our Party adopted at the June meeting, under the title "Building the Party and the *Daily Worker*," we read:

*"A most serious situation exists with regard to the slow growth of the Party (present membership a little over 40,000) and of the circulation of the Daily Worker and Sunday Worker. This situation becomes particularly alarming because it arises in a period of greater activity of the workers, in a period of growing influence and responsibility of the Party as a result of its highly successful activities.*

*"A frank recognition of this intolerable situation is the first condition for remedying it. . . .*

*"The objective situation is highly favorable for the building of the Communist Party into a mass party. . . ."*—(Italics mine—E. B. G.)

The task of building the Party in textile certainly can be carried out. As the unorganized are joining the unions, the work of the Party is becoming increasingly important. The work of the individual Communist in the union today must be not only that of being the best, the most energetic and devoted trade unionist, but also that of a leader and a teacher.

### **Extend Party Democracy**

Our Party functions on the basis of democratic procedure, but often this procedure is completely ignored in our textile branches of the Party. In visiting a number of textile centers, we find:

1. Officers (functionaries) are not always elected. If they are elected and don't function, often no questions are asked, no discussions are held and new ones are co-opted.

2. Our meetings are not always conducted on the basis of democratic procedure. Our new members come from unions where their meetings are conducted according to parliamentary law based on Roberts Rules of Order. They reject and often carry on struggles against certain bureaucratic tendencies in their own unions. These new members certainly expect even greater democratic procedure in the Party. Often the unit or branch organizer with but a few comrades assumes all functions. The majority of the

branch membership is not made to feel responsible for the work of the Party. These new Party members feel as though they are not good enough for the Party and often drop out. The change of this wrong practice will help to decrease our fluctuation.

3. Hardly any educational work is conducted and very seldom are open Party meetings held. Our Party members are very active in the unions, and, of course, they have little time for reading or studying Party literature. Our work in the units and branches must be so organized that time will be provided for education, reading and discussion.

### **Thousands of Workers on Strike— Not One Party Member Recruited!**

In a large textile center where the workers have carried on strike struggles, and already over 5,000 of them are working under union agreements and conditions, we find our leading Party members very active in these struggles, but not one Party member was recruited by them into the Party.

This can easily be explained when we find that this branch has not issued any bulletins or leaflets in support of the strikers, has held no open meetings to which the strikers could be invited, and the meetings themselves are conducted in such a way that one new comrade says, "I have a number of close friends who are interested in the Party but I can't bring them to the branch meetings because they are so dull." And he continues, "If we carried on educational work on timely subjects or on the theory of the Communist Party, I could bring my friends to the meetings and win them over to the Party."

In this same branch, we find that eight Party members work in four different good-sized mills. All of our comrades have friends in these mills. With a little concentration, why should not this branch organize four mill units?

What is true of this branch is true of almost every other textile branch in the country. Of course, we have some good examples. In some sections in the Boston dis-

trict, the work is being improved. But there is room for further improvement everywhere.

From Comrade Lenin we learn that "without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary practice." We must at once begin to bring our revolutionary theory down to the membership. After a discussion on the "Role of the Party in Trade Unions," we certainly can expect our members to do better work in the unions.

The following suggestions may serve to help build the Party in textile.

1. Democratic procedure in the conduct of Party meetings should be developed to a greater degree.

2. Our Party members should concentrate on recruiting and bringing of the Party campaigns into the union.

3. Classes for new Party members be organized.

4. Educational discussions on timely subjects to be organized by our branches and textile comrades as a whole.

5. Industrial or mill bulletins be issued.

6. Large mass meetings with known speakers be organized to which textile workers are especially invited.

7. Concentration on mills where we have one or more Party members with the object of building shop units.

8. Leading comrades be encouraged to enter the drive to set an example for the rest of the Party membership. Also Socialist competition be entered into.

9. Wherever we have an open Party office, there should be our literature for sale. That we begin to establish *lending libraries*.

The possibilities of building our Party is great. Hundreds and thousands of textile workers can be recruited into the Party. The resolution of the last plenum of our Central Committee and the article in the July issue of *The Communist* by Comrade William Z. Foster, "Political Leadership and Party Building," should help our textile comrades in our recruiting drive. Forward toward a mass Party in textile!

# Building a Women's Steel Unit in the Strike Area

By ETHEL STEVENS, Gary, Indiana

AS A RESULT of the steel strike in the Gary area we were successful in building up a new women's unit of wives of the strikers. We wish to relate here some new methods and forms of organization that we used in building this unit.

We must state at the outset that the women of this strike region had no previous strike or organizational experiences. For most of them it was even a novelty to come to a mass meeting. Until the strike, the women of this small company town community were leading a dull and narrow life, confining themselves mainly to kitchen and housework. In order to introduce these women to the program of our Party we had to apply very elementary and simple methods of work.

When the steel strike started we had only one Party woman, the wife of a striker, who was in the leadership of these hundreds of new women. To her we attached two other Party women from a town nearby. In a very short time our three Party women became known everywhere in the strike area as active and devoted unionists. They led the women's picket lines, they organized children's days for strike duty; our three women made the concrete organizational proposals for most of the women's undertakings; they also gave little talks (some of an educational nature) whenever the women gathered. As soon as we got acquainted with the women more closely we made up a list of about 10 to whom we paid special attention. Gradually this list was increased to about twenty.

By special attention we mean the following: (1) We made personal friends with them, went to their homes, talked not only about the strike but also about their own personal affairs; (2) We made sure that these women received the *Daily Worker*, the pamphlets *Women in Steel*,

This July 4th, etc. (3) We arranged in a private home two educational meetings where we explained the broader issues involved in the strike. We also took thirteen of them to Chicago (thirty miles away) to Mother Bloor's Banquet, where one of them got up and greeted Mother Bloor in the name of the entire strike delegation. (4) When the big John L. Lewis meeting took place in Chicago we made sure that the bulk of our twenty women were taken care of with transportation, badges, etc. (5) At all times this selected group was consulted and involved in the work. These women participated in issuing the *Women's Strike Bulletin*; a group of them went to Gary to collect relief; a committee was set up to lead the children's work, etc.

During the course of the strike we spoke to the most active and most responsive women about the work of our Party in this strike. We told them that we were members of the Communist Party who were working to help win the strike. By the time the strike was over we recruited a number of the most energetic women into the Party. But what to do with the others on our list that didn't join yet was a problem. We decided on the following procedure: Our new Party women needed Party training and education for at least six or so weeks before we could involve them in direct Party work. These new members agreed to invite to our meetings (which were primarily educational) the other women whether they are ready to join us or not. At these meetings we involve the non-Party women in discussion, as well as our new members. We give them our literature. We make them feel perfectly at home and welcome. Of course, we elected one of our new recruits as secretary, another acts as chairman. We indicated that occasionally we'll have to hold meetings only with our Party members. In a way we make our visitors feel that those who joined our Party are somewhat at an advantage and in a privileged position.

Finally, in conducting our educational meetings we use the following methods: We select a series of questions that they are interested in. At our last meeting we dis-

cussed "Women in Russia" and the "Difference between the C.P., S.P. and Anarchists." On each of these points we allow all the women to express their views or to ask additional questions on the subject. After everyone has had her turn the leader sums up and proceeds to the next subject. This method is especially important for us because it gives the women a chance to learn how to speak, and it stimulates them to read more of our literature so that they may be posted better for the next educational meetings.

Besides the educational work, we are planning on taking all our women to some affairs in Gary (8 miles away) or to Chicago, and to arrange also more social activities within the city. Thus, this small group, with the help of the original three Party women, aims to change radically the political views and the social life of these women. We expect to recruit the ones who are still visiting our unit meetings within a short time. We believe that most of those who come to our weekly educational meetings will themselves ask for application cards in the next two or three weeks.

## Literature and Party Building

*Excerpts from report delivered at the June Plenum of the Central Committee*

**D**URING the last year our Party published 150 titles of pamphlets and books—approximately three titles a week. This is something which has never been achieved in the history of our Party before. It is a tremendous accomplishment for our Party to be able to absorb as many pamphlets and books as we published last year.

However, having reached a higher level in our literature work, we can no longer leave this work to the desultory, haphazard functioning of loosely organized literature departments in the various localities.

It is precisely as we grow bigger that our difficulties are multiplied. When we were selling only five or ten thousand copies of a pamphlet, what did it mean? It meant that only our own members were buying it. But when we sell 50,000 to 100,000 pieces, we can be sure that it goes outside the Party as well—to the masses, to demonstrations, to picket lines, into workers' organizations, etc. That is why literature distribution is so important in the building of the Party and the People's Front, and in the educational work of our movement at the present time. That is why this work, at the present juncture, demands greater attention from our Party, particularly from the district and section leadership. Continued stabilization and further advancement in the field of literature distribution make it imperative that our further growth take place down below and not from on top only.

Unless the Party helps, unless the Party organizations are mobilized for the systematic distribution of our literature in the shops, trade unions, mass organizations and neighborhoods, we will remain stationary. The establishment of an efficient, well-coordinated literature apparatus in every district, with experienced, politically alert personnel which will be able to link up the work of distribution with all the activities and campaigns of the Party, is an urgent and immediate problem which must be solved in the shortest possible time.

What has happened so far as our comrades involved in literature work are concerned? In many places where this work was already developing successfully, these comrades were taken out for "more important" work. In other places, the bookshops are considered as the sole medium of literature distribution, and no attention is given to distribution through the Party organizations and fractions. In still other places, capable comrades were allowed to leave for better private jobs because they were not paid enough to eke out a living, with the most serious fluctuation resulting. Thus, we failed in many instances to build a permanent and stable apparatus.

Then there is another problem which is very important,

the problem of finances. When you deal with literature which involves tens of thousands of dollars . . . the failure of the districts to pay even 10 percent of their accounts creates a terrific strain. But it is precisely the failure to pay this 10 percent of the bills which is weighing down the national literature office. The profit on a one-cent or two-cent pamphlet does not allow for the necessary funds to meet the deficits of the districts. More careful attention by the district leadership to regularity of literature payments, complete elimination of the practice of using literature funds for other purposes, will help to stabilize the finances in this field of our work.

I want to make a number of proposals regarding our literature work. Before I do so, I wish to stress once again that unless we get the entire leadership in the various districts back of this problem, we will not be able to solve it. The time is past when the Center can supervise every detail of the organization and financing of literature distribution. The initiative and responsibility must more and more be assumed by the district committees, and this means that more direct leadership and guidance must be given to the lower organizations and committees by the districts.

First of all, we must expand our program for the publication of the classics of Marxism-Leninism. Now more than ever, the classics must be made the property of workers everywhere. In view of the giant strides with which the labor movement is advancing, the far-reaching influence of every new change in the international situation, the growing prestige and influence of the Party itself, the constant process of the radicalization of ever broader sections of the population, there is a greater need and demand for these classics than ever before. We propose to publish *The Foundations of Leninism*—previously published and distributed in a 100,000 edition—in a quarter of a million copies now! In Comrade Browder's report reference was made to Lenin's "*Left-Wing*" *Communism: An Infantile Disorder*. We are also considering publication of this classic in an edition of 100,000 at the low price of 10

ents which would make it available to broad masses. We are at work on a number of important new additions to our library of Marxist-Leninist classics which should receive the enthusiastic support of the Party.

Next is the question of the propaganda against capitalism and for socialism, and the necessity for constantly and systematically bringing forward our advocacy of socialism while building the People's Front against war and fascism. Today, especially, when American labor is on the march as never before, literature exposing the evils of the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression should receive the most intensive distribution. As has been pointed out, many districts which have done splendid work in the economic struggle have allowed themselves to become so engrossed in the task of building the progressive trade union movement that they have neglected to build the Party. We cannot afford to neglect this phase of our work. On the contrary, we must extend it, giving to the workers the elementary lessons of socialism, and thus drawing them closer to our Party.

Then, in connection with our work of building the popular front here, we must develop the production of popular and timely pamphlets, dealing with the current struggles and issues which most profoundly affect the masses. We must issue pamphlets which appeal directly to workers, farmers, middle-class and professional elements, the Negro people, the unemployed, etc.

Then, there is the international question. Here we are fortunate because we have the assistance of our international leaders, the leading comrades of the Communist International, Stalin, Dimitroff, Manuilsky and others who supply many of the speeches dealing with questions of world significance, war and peace, international solidarity, etc. We distributed 500,000 copies of the reports of the Seventh World Congress, and much literature on Spain and other international problems. But we must consider these achievements of the past as only a beginning. It is necessary to publish more pamphlets dealing with international questions, to develop the idea of international

solidarity as against the idea of American isolation from the rest of the world. In this respect we have been particularly lax in our treatment of the problems of Latin America, the Far East, etc.

About the U.S.S.R. Comrades, I must report that in the case of our publication dealing with the Soviet Union many of our districts have not yet developed sufficient interest in the distribution of this literature. They do not realize how important it is to utilize literature to popularize the tremendous advances which the Soviet Union has achieved in furthering the economic and cultural well-being of its citizens in their day-to-day life. They do not yet see how the sharp contrast between the growing prosperity and broadening democracy of the U.S.S.R. and the increased exploitation, oppression and poverty, and the constant threat of war which exist in the capitalist countries, will draw great masses closer to our Party, and the Party of socialism.

Recently, in line with our campaign to drive Trotskyism root and stock, out of the progressive and labor movement we issued a large number of pamphlets covering every aspect of the struggle against this ideological poison. At the same time, in order to bring forward the positive side of the achievements of the Soviet Union, we placed Stalin's speech on the new Soviet Constitution and the Constitution itself in the very center of our drive against Trotskyism, distributing almost three quarters of a million copies of these two pamphlets alone in many languages. But there are many other books and pamphlets dealing with the land of Soviets which we have distributed in altogether too small quantities. We have not sufficiently appreciated this aspect of our educational work.

There are many other problems arising from the necessity of utilizing our literature more effectively than even in building the Party and the People's Front. There is the question of special literature dealing with various phases of our activity. In the trade union field, for instance, we find that Comrade Foster is the only one who is writing, although there are many other comrades active

the trade union field who could supply material on the many important aspects of this important work. And we cannot say that Foster's brilliant pamphlets have been taken advantage of as they should be. There is a growing importance of reaching the national minorities, which number in the tens of millions in the United States. Why can't we organize a real program for the publication and distribution of literature at least among the most important language groups?

There is a need for more school and textbooks in conjunction with our educational activities in the districts. There is a pressing need for opening up new avenues for the distribution of our literature particularly through a mass book club organization in order to reach new sections of the population who can be organized into the People's Front. While we can record that we have made some beginnings in carrying out our slogans of "Theory to the Masses" and "Reach the Millions!" with our agitational literature we must recognize that these are only beginnings. In the course of carrying out our major tasks in the next period of building and strengthening our Party and broadening the People's Front, we must more than double the distribution of our progressive, anti-fascist, Marxist-Leninist literature.

## Correction

In the August plenum issue of the Party Organizer there appeared excerpts from the speech of Louise Thompson on the work among Negro women. By error, it was stated, on page 25, that of the 92 official delegates attending the conference on Negro women in New York, 65 were Negroes. The correct statement is:

"Fifteen of these delegates were men; two-thirds of the women were Negroes."

R. Grecht.

Org-Education Commission, C.C.

# A "Turn to the Masses" in Our Section Convention

By M. C. WORK, Detroit

A REAL turn was marked in the convention recently held in Section 1 in Detroit, in the heart of the Negro section of the city.

The convention took place at the conclusion of the great strike wave that has swept some 200,000 employees of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford's into the powerful United Automobile Workers of America and changed in six months the world's most famous "open-shop town" into a stronghold of industrial unionism.

Four weeks were devoted to pre-convention discussion. An outline for discussion was given to every unit. Section committee members were assigned to visit each unit. After the discussions were completed a questionnaire had to be filled in and returned to the section. The unit election took place. A three-month plan was drawn up by every unit.

At least 50 percent of the units carried out the discussion and returned the questionnaires and the plan. Although it consumed only six hours (certainly insufficient time) the convention solved a number of decisive problems.

In our section live a majority of the Negro Ford workers. Therefore the first and main problem was concentration on activity to aid in the organization of the workers at Ford's.

In order to dramatize the issue, therefore, the first report was delivered by the secretary of our trade union department, Comrade James Anderson. Two hours discussion served to emphasize the need of every unit making the Ford organization drive a part of its three-month plan, so that our Party members would be able to take an active part in this drive.

The second highlight of the convention program was the section committee's report which was delivered by the section organizer, Comrade Rifka Meysenberg. The

resented a real picture of consolidation and progress, mainly during the great strike wave.

At the January registration, the section registered 185 members of which some forty were Negroes. This was the situation after six years of work by the section.

At the June Convention, however, we could report 285 registered and eighty of them Negroes; a 35 percent increase in membership and 100 percent increase in registered Negro members.

Comrade Rifka's leadership during this period can be utilized by many leading comrades as an example of real Bolshevik leadership of a white Communist in a territory largely Negro. When the strike wave hit Detroit she solidified the section committee, galvanizing it into action.

And while we worked to help win the strikes and build the unions, (auto, steel, cigar) at the same time we built the Party and raised questions of highest political importance for discussion inside the shops among the sit-downers, such as the fight for equal rights for Negro workers; support for Spanish democracy; independent political action by the workers.

Thousands of *Daily Workers* were regularly distributed.

Seventy-five new members were recruited; 40 of them were Negroes. Some shop units were established.

Because of her good work during the strikes, two unions presented Comrade Meyzenberg with medals for "meritorious work and assistance during the strikes."

The section organizer's report emphasized the need of a Negro leader for the section and in general of a policy of promoting a Negro leadership.

It is true that Detroit has a special problem, namely, that the auto magnates have carefully built up and maintained sharp racial antagonisms by painstakingly setting up separate nationalities in separate territories—Poles, Greeks, Croatians, Bulgarians, Russians, Rumanians, Finns, etc., and in bringing in thousands of native American workers from the South, both white and Negro, (at least nine-tenths of the Negro workers have come from the

South during the past twenty years). Thus Detroit has been a fertile field for the Ku Klux and the Black Legion.

Comrade Rifka's report recommended the election of a Negro comrade as section organizer, and the development of more Negro comrades as leaders of the Party.

Prior to the strike wave the main activity of our comrades in the section was among the unemployed, helping to build up the Worker's Alliance. Two Negro women comrades, Comrade Henderson and Comrade Curry, are outstanding leaders in the Workers Alliance. Excellent possibilities exist for building the movement among the unemployed Negro and white workers in our section because of the very evident discrimination in relief given to Negro welfare clients and because of the aggravated nature of unemployment among Negroes.

In addition to stressing in all the main reports the special nature of the Negro question, a special report was given on the acute housing shortage, the bad housing, fire trap and slum conditions, and the high rents existing particularly in our section. The housing issue was seized upon as the key to our present situation. It is accepted as the principal means of reaching Ford workers.

The Negro question was further dramatized when the delegates voted finally to adopt the "Section Three Month Plan" in which it is argued that every unit shall recruit a certain number of Negroes.

A Negro, Comrade Work, recommended by the district committee and commended in the report of the section committee because of his previous six months' work in the section, was elected section chairman.

The previous section organizer, Comrade Rifka Meyzenberg, a white woman, was elected as administrative secretary, thus placing in real life before our comrades the unity of Negro and white in the fight for Negro rights. She further concretized that part of our plan that expresses our determination to advance women comrades as leaders in our section. There are three women on our new section committee.

The section committee of eight and three candidates includes four workers now in the factories. We are proud to announce as secretary of our trade union department Negro worker, Comrade James Anderson. Two new Negro comrades were elected to the section committee.

The section convention, in its three-months plan decided:

1. To recruit 100 new members by Labor Day. (Part of a plan to recruit 1,000 new members by June, 1938.)
2. Every member to subscribe to the *Daily Worker*.
3. To urge every comrade to bring his or her sweet-heart, wife or husband into the Party by Labor Day.

*As a final word we offer a formal Socialist challenge to any similar sections to do outstanding work in recruiting, in building circulation of the Daily Worker or in bringing forward women comrades as leaders of the masses.*

## Lower Ohio Valley Goes Over the Top

by E. B., Bellaire, Ohio

THE Lower Ohio Valley Section, in the heart of a great industrial region of steel and coal, had had so many problems to solve that Party members had found it difficult to find time for Party recruiting. When the realization was brought home to them, however, by Party leaders, that without a strong Party organization the proper solution of other problems was impossible, they set Party recruiting as their number one task. Under the able leadership of Comrade Michael Walden, they set about this task in earnest, and since the return of Comrade Paul Bohus to the section have vigorously carried on their efforts along his line under his efficient guidance.

The former Ohio Valley Section has been divided, creating of the Steubenville-Weirton division a new section, the

Upper Ohio Valley Section. When the present drive was inaugurated, the two sections decided upon a contest in recruiting, the winners to be entertained with a turkey banquet at the expense of the losers. I do not know how the Upper Ohio Valley Section is progressing in the drive but we of the Lower valley are confidently looking forward to eating turkey in Steubenville at the close of the drive, instead of eating crow in Bellaire.

The drive of the Lower Ohio Valley is not aimed merely at numbers, but is highly selective, the goal being to get the best possible material into the Party. Leaders of the working class in their various communities are being brought into the Party. The most inspiring feature of the drive is the part that is being played in it by the young comrades, under the brilliant example of Comrade Mary Bohus.

Our only advice to other sections in the recruiting drive that may ask how we do it is: Just go out and recruit. There is a rich harvest ripe to be gathered into the Party if we but make an effort to bring it in. The industrial struggles now going on, the grave threats of war, the alarming spread of fascist sentiment and tactics in America, have all combined to arouse the thinking working class man and woman to a realization of the dangers facing them and to make them ready to join the organization that is the most effective agency in fighting these dangers, the Communist Party.

## Build the I. L. D.

By F. BROWN

THE recent Washington Conference of the International Labor Defense, which, besides being attended by the I.L.D. delegates proper, was honored by the presence of many fraternal delegates from various mass organizations

pecially trade unions, and several outstanding personalities of the progressive movement, including Congressmen, is the best proof of the growing prestige of this organization. Such prestige is well-merited. It has grown out of the defense work conducted by the I.L.D. over a period of years, in the defense of hundreds of labor prisoners and assistance to their families, in the broad I.L.D. campaign in defense of liberties, etc.

With the upsurge of the big industrial unions and with the rising movement against the reactionary measures of the Tories, the task of the I.L.D. will become a much greater one. Its future will be bound up more and more with the struggle that will arise from the development of the People's Front in the United States. This was clearly pointed out by Comrade Browder at the last plenum of the Central Committee.

While the Central Committee never ceased to cooperate with this outstanding defense organization, the same cannot be said of some of the most important state organizations of our Party, where the I.L.D. has been abandoned. New organizations have sprung up in the broad struggle for civil liberties, instead of being strengthened for more effective defense activities and more efficient united front work within the broad struggle for the democratic rights of the masses.

The argument is incorrect that, because during the last period there were not many defense cases, and that even today, the defense cases are not so numerous as in the time of the Hoover era, the I.L.D. is no longer so vital. The facts prove that we are confronted with many defense cases especially in relation to the broad struggles conducted by the new industrial unions, and that such struggles against the reactionary forces and against vigilanteism, for democratic rights, are the order of the day. These are sufficient reasons, and more than sufficient reasons, to understand the role that the International Labor Defense must play. More than that, wherever the I.L.D. has been reduced to a small organization in many instances precisely because of the poor cooperation given by our

Party locally, we are duty-bound to take such steps that will bring the I.L.D. back to life and will guarantee the existence and the development of one of the most important organizations of the American people.

The recent partial victory in the Scottsboro case provides an important basis for strengthening the I.L.D. among the Negro people. The series of brilliant victories achieved by the I.L.D. and its legal staff in the Simpson, Herndon, DeJong and other cases, its splendid record of effective work in helping the families of political prisoners prove that the I.L.D. is not only an organization known to the American masses, but it is one of the powerful factors in the development of the progressive struggles of the American people.

The basis for the building of the I.L.D. into a broader, more powerful organization is here. Our Party cannot remain aloof in giving the I.L.D. its utmost support.

The establishment of civil rights committees, civil rights conferences and various other organizations that spring up in time of struggle, does not for a moment do away with the need for a most powerful I.L.D. It is precisely a stronger labor defense that will be instrumental in broadening out the movement of defense of political prisoners and of relief to their families, and at the same time stimulate and help unite all defense movements in the struggle for civil liberties.

One of the main tasks before us today is to take immediate steps to build up the I.L.D., especially in Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, where there are tremendous possibilities, where there is a burning need for a powerful defense organization to assist in the struggles of the industrial unions.

The Washington Conference of the International Labor Defense has proven that even in places where the I.L.D. is weak as an organization, as for example in Philadelphia and Newark, but where it has the support of our Party, it has been able to achieve real success in the struggle against injunctions and against vigilanteism. It was through the initiative of the I.L.D. that in both of these places

united front organizations have been set up, in which A. F. of L. and C. I. O. unions are actively engaged. Furthermore, the I. L. D. has proven to be able to enlist a large middle-class support on behalf of labor, which is another important achievement.

These examples, together with hundreds of others throughout the country show that the I. L. D. is an organization that is welcomed by the unions, as in Chicago where its magnificent work, in connection with the Memorial Day Massacre of the Republic Steel strikers, won the applause of the toiling people of this metropolis.

There are no excuses for state organizations that have grown in strength and in political ability not taking such steps as will make of the I. L. D. one of the bulwarks of labor. In line with the plenum discussions and decisions, the district bureaus will have to review their activities in relation to the I. L. D. for the purpose of increasing their cooperation and support and assigning new capable forces. While it is true that the Party members are engaged today in hundreds of activities, it is also true that the I. L. D. is such an important organization that it is necessary and worthwhile to lend forces to it. Besides, there are many Party members who would be eager to undertake defense work. It should not be difficult to get volunteers to whom the program and tasks of the I. L. D. can be made clear, and in this way prepare them to become good members of the I. L. D., more than that, the most active forces.

A strong defense organization supported by millions is a powerful factor in strengthening the fighting abilities and morale of the working class army in its struggle against the big industrialists, and stiffening the broad struggle of the people against reaction and fascism.

# Party Work in the Small Towns

By ALFRED KNUTSON, Bismarck, North Dakota

IN CENTRAL United States, in this vast hinterland of our country, where agriculture forms the basis of the life of millions of people, are located thousands of small towns in which our Party must build branches and units as rapidly as possible.

In the old days, some thirty years ago, the Socialist Party succeeded in organizing hundreds of live locals throughout this territory. In North Dakota, for example, the S.P. at one time had 4,000 dues-paying members. Very few of these locals are now functioning, in some states they have become almost wholly non-existent (North Dakota is one of these), though their revolutionary traditions remain.

Certainly what was done by the Socialist Party in this area can today be duplicated manifold by our Communist Party because now the class issues are sharper and conditions generally are much more favorable than three decades ago for the organization of the revolutionary movement. What is required of us is that we become convinced that this work is necessary and that it can be done. With the great need and demand for organizing among the employed and unemployed workers and the constant appeals of farmers for relief and for the improvement of their conditions it would seem that the door of opportunity is wide open for the building of our Party.

To organize the Party in the small towns is also at present of prime necessity for the furtherance and consolidation of the now rising labor movement in these towns, to assist with the building of the progressive farmers' economic and cooperative movement and for the development of the worker-farmer united front (Farmer-Labor Party) against reaction.

Many people in the small towns have been tremendously

stirred by the successful organization of the C.I.O., by the rapid advance of economic construction in the Soviet Union, by the brilliant resistance against reaction and fascism of the Spanish and Chinese peoples in their glorious fight for liberty and democracy.

At the same time, it is important to note that this area, where live, we are told, a "safe, sound and staid people," isolated from the main streams of the country's progressive labor movement, constitutes a great potential base for fascist and reactionary influences. Our big job is to see to it that reaction is defeated by organizing these people on the side of democracy and progress and for peace. Our Party can lead in this important task.

The main will and energy of our Party must first of all be directed toward helping to build progressive unions and the Workers Alliance in the principal towns in these areas. At the same time we must see to it that the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker* are widely distributed in these towns and that functioning Party units are set up. When we do this we will then have good bases for our work among the farmers and for the development of the People's Front.

As the mass movement, with the Party playing a leading role, is thus being developed in the main towns, and it gains influence, it will not be long before it will spread to the outlying sections, to other towns nearby. In North Dakota we have in view seven such main strategic centers: Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Bismarck, Jamestown, Dickinson and Williston.'

It is necessary, I believe, to stress the above point because there has been and still is a tendency to set off the farm work into a groove by itself without regard to, and independent of, the organization and actions of labor in the leading towns. Labor in these towns is the basic factor and must be given chief consideration. It is precisely such an orientation and such work that will also mean stability and success in the development of the mass movements among the farmers, for labor bears the brunt of the struggle against capitalist exploitation.

It is unfortunate that we cannot yet show much

results for the Party in the farm areas, that we do not so far have any really successful centers developed that can serve as leads, as examples. We should like to hear from other districts on their work in the small towns. Let's exchange experiences through the columns of the *Party Organizer*.

Here in North Dakota we have lately assisted in winning some W.P.A. strikes, taken a leading role in the fight for drought relief, won over to our side one Trades and Labor Assembly, etc., but the Party itself is not yet growing so we can really see it. One of the reasons for this is due to the Red scare, which has affected some of our own comrades. Another reason is the almost absolute lack of independent activity of our Party. This is now being corrected and with the favorable objective situation before us we believe that we shall be able to double our membership in North Dakota by the end of the year.

As to our program and activities in the small towns, I think we Communists must participate in the life of the people generally, be with them at their meetings, outings, affairs, celebrations, county fairs, entertainments, sports, etc.; that we should assist in making some of these events successful and show how improvements can be made in them; that we should participate in and give our opinion to the public on a school election, on a proposed bond issue, city ordinance or law. A monthly, mimeographed bulletin should be issued and distributed by each district, setting forth the Party's views on such people's issues, including their limitations and our ultimate aim.

About two months ago we presented a statement to the State Board of the Holiday Association about the development of irrigation projects and other resources of western North Dakota, pointing out how farm life could be improved and jobs secured through such development and showed how the Bank of North Dakota and the State Mill and Elevator could be made more useful to the citizens of the state than at present. It was given hearty and unanimous approval.

# New York State Section

ISSUED BY NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY

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## 231 Daily Worker Subs in 5 Weeks

By IDA SCHOLL

AT OUR county meeting on March 18 I learned that the circulation of our press was being deplorably neglected. The leading comrades even had to appeal to the Party members to read the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*. This meeting impressed me so that I felt it the duty of every single comrade to do his utmost to help build the circulation of our press. At the next meeting of my Party branch I volunteered to go canvassing with the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*.

My first canvass resulted in one sub. Canvassing again and again, I succeeded in getting a few more subs. I saw, however, that I wasn't accomplishing much. I realized that the work of obtaining subs was not organized properly and decided to work out my own plan.

To begin with, I approached some friends who do read the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker* occasionally, but read the capitalist press most of the time. I tried to impress them with the idea that they as workers must read and support the only paper that represents their interests and is always in the forefront of working-class struggle. I convinced most of them to become subscribers of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*. In this way I was able to obtain about fifteen or seventeen subs.

## Read Paper for Two Months

For the Decoration Day week-end I went to Brighton Beach. In the house where I was stopping, there are about eight rooms, each one of which is occupied by single people, all of whom are workers. I talked to them so much about the *Daily* that I convinced every one of them to become a subscriber. I also met a twenty-year old college student in that house. He told me that he didn't like the *D. W.* because it has only one-sided news. I asked him to read the paper for two months and if he still didn't like it, then I would repay him for all the copies of the paper that he had read. He finally agreed to take a sub for the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*. I met him again and asked him how he liked the paper. He said that he can't get along without it any longer. He knows that he lost his bet with me.

## Doors No Longer Slammed

These few subs gave me courage and inspiration, but I still felt dissatisfied with the results because I felt that that did not come in direct contact with the broad masses. I realized that in order to obtain readers for our press, one must come in contact with a great number of workers and their families and speak to them individually. Being unemployed, I decided that rather than canvass these workers' homes in the evening only, I would meet their wives in front of their homes when they would come out with their babies. To my surprise, many of these women who slammed the door in my face when I had come to their homes, now listened to me attentively and were interested in what I had to tell them. I always approached the women when they seemed to be in a calm mood—either reading a magazine or newspaper—and not when they were busy with their children or putting their babies to sleep. I had learned from experience that when they were busy with their children they were not likely to pay much attention to me. I spoke to them in a friendly manner and asked them if they were interested in the *D. W.*

Most of them replied that their husband sometimes read the paper but that they have no time to read any paper. I explained to them that as little time as they have they must read something in order not to fall too far behind their husband mentally. Their reply was that they are not interested in politics. I pointed out to them that there is a very informative doctor's column in the *D. W.* and a women's page in the *Sunday Worker* which is very important for women to read, since there are very important articles on child psychology and health. I also told them that the paper fights against the high cost of living and high rents. I procured some subs from them in this way.

### Concentrated on Park

I then began to concentrate on a neighborhood park a few blocks away from this territory. There I met various people—men, women, white, Negro, Chinese, college boys, artists, trade unionists, unemployed and part-time workers, domestic workers, shop workers and professionals. Here I obtained most of my subs.

I approached these people in the same manner as I did the others, but tried to judge these people individually. I approached all of them with these words: "The *Daily Worker* is the only paper that defends the interest of the workers and is in the forefront of every struggle of the workers. It defends democracy in Spain and all over the world, including the United States." In approaching the youth, I gave them the pamphlet published by the Friends of the Lincoln Battalion. I spoke to them about the heroism of our boys and told them that one of the things they wanted most was to see the circulation of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker* increased. They were very much impressed and many of them became subscribers. I judged each person separately and tried to speak to him according to his or her interest. For instance, if I approached a Negro worker I spoke to him about the Scottsboro case, Angelo Herndon, and told him that the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker* is the only paper that fights for the interests of the Negro as well as the white workers. Some Negroes told me that

they have no confidence in the white people and that they would never give their signature to any white person. I tried to the best of my ability to explain to them that the class conscious white workers are 100 percent with the Negro workers and that three white workers paid with their lives to help save the Scottsboro boys from the electric chair. I thus obtained subs from a few Negro professionals, one Negro teacher, a few workers including domestic workers, a few housewives, and one Negro superintendent.

### **Broun Used As Selling Point**

Many times, I took some literature along with me such as *The Story of the Lincoln Battalion* and Heywood Broun's opinion of the *D. W.* Those whom I could not convince I told that it was my fault that I did not succeed in impressing them with the importance of reading the *D. W.*; that perhaps I was not making myself clear enough. I left them some literature and always walked away with a friendly attitude and asked them to buy the paper at a newsstand.

I spoke to the W.P.A. workers and pointed out to them that this is the only paper that fights against W.P.A. cuts and for adequate relief for the unemployed. One day I obtained three subs from Italian W.P.A. workers at one time.

### **Specific Selling Suggestions**

Obtaining the 231 subs, I had the opportunity to talk to many hundreds of workers about our press. I feel confident that with the right approach many more workers can be made subscribers to our press. I want to propose the following:

1. Women's clubs of *Daily Worker* readers should be organized.
2. Every member of all mass organizations should be made subscribers of the *Daily* and *Sunday Worker*.
3. It is of great importance to bring the *Daily* and

*Sunday Worker* into the parents' and teachers' organizations. We should arrange parent entertainments and exert all efforts to get readers for our press. At these entertainments, our paper should be introduced by a capable speaker who should speak no longer than twenty minutes.

In short, workers want the *Daily Worker*. Our comrades should be out among these workers every day, every week, every month bringing the *Daily* to them. Comrades, the soil is fertile. We but need the sowers. What a glorious satisfaction it is to watch the crops coming in!

## Bringing Forward C. P. Literature

By S. L.

THE recent resolutions adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee emphasize that "the Communist Party must guard against the danger of dissolving itself in the general mass movement either ideologically or organizationally." This warning can very appropriately be applied to the sale of literature. Let me give two examples to illustrate the point.

On one occasion as I was getting literature a comrade from one of the shop units asked for pamphlets on Spain. After getting some she carefully looked them over saying: "Is the name of the Communist Party on the pamphlet? If so I can't take them." I am not exaggerating when I say that there was a genuine look of fear on her face as she passed that remark. On finding the label of the North American Committee she was reassured and accepted the material.

## Red Jitters?

What's the objection here? Certainly its not to the fact that the comrade wanted non-Communist literature. There are many occasions when that may be necessary and desirable. What is objectionable is the comrade's attitude which very clearly amounted to the following: "since we are engaged in a united front movement anything that bears the name of the Party is taboo. The *only* material that can properly be sold is the so-called United Front literature." It is this kind of tendency which if carried to its logical conclusion must inevitably lead to the Party submerging itself in the popular front movement—to the dangerous practice of setting the sale of *Letters From the Abraham Lincoln Battalion* against the sale of Browder's *Lenin and Spain*.

## Putting Forward Face of Party

A good example for a healthy approach to the sale of literature is the following: at the end of this school term our unit felt that workers in our shop ought to take some of our basic literature with them as part of their vacation reading. Within two days we sold a total of twenty copies of the following *Communist Manifesto*, *Socialism Utopian and Scientific*, *State and Revolution*, *Foundations of Leninism* and *What is Communism?* All to non-Party people. If you bear in mind that this sale was made by one comrade who did it practically on his own initiative it is clear that far better results might have been obtained had the work been planned. (Incidentally we have not neglected other literature, having just recently mailed out forty copies of *Crime of Guernica* to Catholic workers in one shop.)

I would suggest that in line with the plenum decision a careful record be kept of the amount of "theoretical" and other Party literature taken by each unit, such record to be publicized from time to time, and units backward in this respect to be called to account.

# Neighborhood Concentration

By AL ROBERTS

AT THE beginning of April, our section in the 8th Assembly District, The Bronx, decided to assign some concentration work to each of our units. To this work, which we confined to the units' own neighborhood territory, the units were to devote their major efforts.

We can already record results from several of our units whose main task was concentrating on W.P.A. projects in their territories.

1.—*Organization*: Three units were assigned W.P.A. projects in their neighborhoods. Each unit in turn assigned two committees to the project. One committee did direct Party work. The other committee was to build the Workers' Alliance on the job. Each of these committees of about eight members was headed by a committee captain who was made a member of the unit bureau.

2.—*Functions*: The Party committee went out on the project in the name of the Party, distributing the *Daily Worker*, literature, and leaflets on all major Party campaigns. This committee invited W.P.A. workers to open unit meetings as a step toward recruiting them into the Party. The Workers' Alliance Committee established contact with the W.A., distributed their leaflets and literature, recruited into the Workers' Alliance, called meetings of the men of the project, agitated for the recent one-day strike, etc.

3.—*Results*: We now have a sufficient number of Party members on two of the projects to establish shop units. About 135 workers were recruited into the Workers' Alliance and we are now ready to build W.A. project locals.

Moreover, through this method of work we have been able to improve the inner life of the units. Whereas before, the units had no concrete perspective, they now

feel, and they are, directly connected with some industrial organizational task. This has in no way diminished the amount of other neighborhood work. Unit 8, which had distributed only twenty copies of the *Daily Worker* last October now distributes between 300 and 400 per month. Unit 9 which distributed no *Daily Workers* for the month of October, now distributes approximately 200 a month. Unit 15 distributed ten *Daily Workers* in October and now distributes between 300 and 400 per month. Distribution of literature and leaflets has increased as well.

Many things are yet to be improved upon in our units doing this work. For instance, the rate of Party recruiting lags far behind our W.A. work. Again, not all the comrades assigned to these committees have been involved to a sufficient degree. These and other shortcomings which exist will have to be examined and corrected.

These few experiences of ours in concentration work with the resultant achievements can be emulated by other units or branches. An unorganized shop in the neighborhood, the "slave markets" of Negro domestic workers, or some mass organization in the territory can be concentrated upon in almost the same way, effectively bringing forward the role and face of our Party and building the Party.

## 100 Percent Control

**R**ECOGNITION to Paul Connor, membership director of Branch 2, 3rd A.D., The Bronx, for 100 percent June Control. Some time before the control, Comrade Connor made it his business to become personally acquainted with the 70 members of the Branch. His second step was to set a group system with captains. Third, attendance at meetings was improved.