

PARTY . . . ORGANIZER

• JANUARY • 1938 •

25,000 New Members by January 21!

Some Problems in Party Building
—Goldfrank

Recruiting Among the Negro People
—Cole

Lenin Memorial Day for the People
—Johnson

"The Road Back"—A Story of Lost
Units —K. B.

Political Education of Party Cadres
—Johnstone

Chicago's South Side Advances
—Carter and Nowell

How We Recruited —Eisenberg
—Cohen, J. O., Brande
—Wolf, Thal, Mancuso

C O N T E N T S

25,000 New Members by January 21! By Org.-Educational Commission, C.C.	1
Some Problems in Party Building By Herbert Goldfrank	6
Recruiting Among the Negro People By Lee Cole	10
Lenin Memorial Day for the People By Clyde Johnson	13
"The Road Back"—A Story of Lost Units By K. B.	17
District Party Builders and Party Organizers (A. Review). By R. Grecht, Org.-Educational Commission, C.C.	18
Win the Small Towns for the Party and Progress By Beatrice Shields	21
For the Political Education of Party Cadres By Jack Johnstone	25
Let Us Not Only Teach, Let Us Also Learn By J. Murphy	28
Chicago's South Side Advances By Wm. Carter and Ann Nowell	30
Hayward Cannery Workers Join the Communist Party	32

NEW YORK STATE SECTION

How We Recruited By S. Eisenberg, William Cohen, J. O., A. Brande, A. Wolf, Corrine Thal, W. Mancuso.	33
Tasks in the Unemployed Struggle By Philip Washburn	38

PARTY ORGANIZER

ISSUED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.

Vol. XI

JANUARY, 1938

No. 1

25,000 New Members By January 21!

By **ORG.-EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION, CENTRAL
COMMITTEE**

WE ARE today, in December, in the fourth month of the Party membership recruiting drive. In the three months of September, October, and November, we had already brought into the Party 13,500 new members, and raised our dues payments to 40,000 in November. The average monthly recruiting during this period has been 4,500, or 150 per cent more than the average monthly recruiting for the previous eight months of the year.

This is definite progress. We commend the many hundreds of branches and units, the guidance of leading committees and work of branch executives that have made this advance possible. We are proud of the many dozens of comrades, all over the country, who responded to the call of the Central Committee with Bolshevik enthusiasm and energy, individually reaching new heights in Party building, proving themselves real American Stakhanovites.

But, comrades, we cannot pat ourselves on the back with self-satisfaction. We have not done enough. We have not fully exploited the tremendous possibilities existing everywhere for building the Party. We have not drawn broad enough circles of our Party membership into the drive—only a small percentage have as yet participated in the campaign. *We do not move fast enough.*

Earl Browder, the General Secretary of our Party, in his report to the November enlarged meeting of the political Bureau of the Central Committee, stated:

“We must approach the problem of our Party building in the light of the tremendous tasks we have assumed, in the light of the limited time we have to accomplish them, with the knowledge of the world of enemy forces with which we are surrounded and which we have to meet and defeat.”

Yes, comrades, we are truly in a race with time. Events move rapidly—we cannot afford to wait. The fascist aggressors are advancing rapidly in their determination to plunge the world into a new world war. The economic royalists in our own country have organized a sabotage of recovery, have thrown hundreds of thousands out of their jobs, have pledged themselves anew to fight to the limit against any program of social legislation, against labor's efforts to organize and unite its forces. Fascist elements in America are showing their hand more and more clearly, as they prepare to wrest from the American people the democratic rights so dearly won.

We must have many more thousands of Communists to build up more rapidly bulwarks against reaction and fascism, to advance the unity of the working class and the People's Front, to rally the people for more determined struggle for peace through collective action of peace-desiring countries against the fascist aggressors. We must have many more thousands of active Communists in factories and mines, among the unemployed, in trade unions, among the farmers, among progressive middle class elements, among the great mass of Negroes—Communists who will point the way in the struggle for progress, peace and democracy; Communists who will be in the forefront of the struggle for the people's needs; Communists who will work tirelessly and energetically to help build a powerful labor movement, both on the industrial and political field, that will halt the economic royalists in their tracks.

We can get them! It is up to you!

The Political Bureau of our Party, in extending the membership recruiting drive to January 21, Lenin Commemoration Day, decided upon the following objectives for the campaign:

1. To recruit 25,000 new members by January 21;

2. To raise the dues payments to 50,000 per month. With the 13,500 already recruited by the first of December, there remain 11,500 new members to be brought into the Party by the end of the drive. *This goal can be reached!* This is not only possible, but absolutely necessary in view of the grave responsibilities resting upon our Party in the present period.

During the month of November, there was a decline in recruiting over October. Why? Because there was a slackening of attention, control, check-up, and planning in the districts, sections, units and fractions. Socialist competition was not pressed, there was an absence of special incentives for increased activities. The decision to extend the recruiting drive and the reasons therefore were not quickly enough brought before our membership. Recruiting does not take place automatically; workers for the most part do not join of their own accord, spontaneously. *Recruiting must be planned, must be organized.* Recruiting has a very direct relationship to the life of the units, the development of local and branch leadership, the political mass work and mass agitation carried on by our Party. All these factors must be considered in carefully mapped plans to achieve our aims.

What must be done now, at once, in every district, every section, every branch?

1. Review immediately the status of the recruiting drive. Check on the activities of each comrade. Let every neighborhood branch, every shop and industrial unit, and every fraction, organize and plan Party building activities for the last lap of the campaign. Let each comrade analyze his or her own work, make a final determined effort to bring one new member into the Party.

2. Lay major emphasis on recruiting in industry, according to our policy of concentration, bringing larger

masses from unions, shops, and factories, into the Party. This demands special attention to shop and industrial units, to all trade union fractions—in particular those in steel, mining, marine, auto, railroad, textile, and packing.

Let every group of comrades in a trade union meet to take up recruiting. Let every effort be exerted to enlist the cooperation of the Party leaders in trade unions.

We have recruited in the first three months of the drive thousands of workers who are members of unions affiliated with the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. Let us mobilize this powerful force for increased membership recruiting from these unions.

3. Give special attention to recruiting from national groups, in particular, Polish, Italian, Jewish, and others of major influence in each individual district or city. Call together comrades active in this field of work, comrades in the International Workers Order and other mass organizations, to decide on special activities for the remaining period of the drive.

4. Strengthen the educational activity in all branches. Increase your agitation and propaganda among the masses. Utilize the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker*, our pamphlets and other literature more extensively.

5. Make a systematic check-up on the assignment and assimilation of all new Party members, carried through in conjunction with the re-registration drive. *Involve these thousands of new comrades in recruiting.* They have friends and acquaintances; they are enthusiastic about the Party; they are already proving to be among our best recruiters.

6. See that all proposals are carried out to assure a 100 per cent re-registration of our membership, and with it an increase in dues payments to reach our goal of 50,000 dues payments monthly.

What methods can the branches, fractions, and individual members use?

Arrange group meetings, parties, open branch and fraction meetings and mass meetings. Visit your acquaintances, your fellow trade unionists and shop workers. Spend time with them, give them our literature, our press. Increase

socialist competition among individual comrades and branches. Let the ace recruiters visit branches and fractions to tell how they are working. Let the Party building campaign be on the agenda of every meeting—whether of branch, fraction, leading committee; whether it be an inner Party gathering or a mass meeting. Let the Party leaders in the districts, in the counties, the sections and cities, give personal direction to all recruiting activities.

The Org.-Educational Commission proposes that during the first two weeks in January every branch arrange an open branch meeting, which shall center around a discussion of a burning issue in the community or city—around the Communist position on unemployment and the present industrial recession, on the high cost of living, or on the fight for peace. These meetings can effectively stimulate all preparations for the Lenin Memorial meetings, the high point in the membership recruiting drive, with which the campaign ends.

We are now heading for the National Congress of Party Builders Delegates. This Congress will be held in New York on February 17, 18, 19, and 20. Each district will be entitled to a minimum of two delegates, *with additional delegates in accordance with the number recruited and the increase in dues payments.* Socialist competition among comrades competing for the privilege of being chosen as a delegate to the National Congress shall be widely stimulated, thus giving impetus to the entire campaign. These comrades shall be popularized and utilized in each district, to address branch and public meetings, etc.

The National Congress of Party Builder Delegates will be a great event in the history of our Party—a memorable occasion in the life of every delegates chosen to attend.

Comrades of the Communist Party! We are now in the last lap of the recruiting drive—a drive not alone to strengthen our Party by the addition of thousands of new forces, but also to make our membership as a whole more conscious of the continuous necessity of building the Party, so that consistent recruiting may really become an integral part of all Communist activity.

We have it within our power to increase our membership by 25,000 by January 21. Let us therefore take all measures to achieve our goal. We cannot wait. The cause of progress in the struggle against reaction, the cause of democracy in the struggle against fascism, the cause of the fight for peace, of the People's Front, of winning the masses for socialism, demand a strong and powerful Communist Party.

Act at once for a successful completion of the Party building campaign.

Some Problems in Party Building

By HERBERT GOLDFRANK, Ohio State Administrative Secretary

A STUDY of our Party Building Drive in Ohio shows very uneven results. In some places the Party has more than doubled in size since September first, yet in others there has been a decided lag (Canton and Lorain). Analyzing the reasons for this uneven growth, despite the fact that we are now recruiting four times as fast as we were during the first six months of 1937, we find some vital problems which I wish to deal with here.

Mass Recruiting Demands Mass Work

A large part of recruiting is carried on by new Party members. They are most successful during their first weeks in the Party. Take the example of our Party in Springfield. Here a few fine comrades were recruited, and immediately the Party began to grow, tripling in size. But now recruiting has almost stopped. What are the reasons?

We find that the first new recruits brought in some of their friends and contacts, and they, in turn, a few more. Then, it seemed, the sources dried up. The reason is that our Party in Springfield has not yet been seen in action before the masses, struggling for the needs of the people.

Our Party has not yet in its own name taken a public stand on questions in Springfield, thus broadening the base of our influence. Our comrades, new and inexperienced, in a poorly organized city, were only able to approach some of their friends. Of course, this was good; many comrades forget that their friends and relatives may also be influenced to join. But the lesson to be learned is that mass recruiting can be carried on only in connection with political activity and mass work.

Concretize Political Discussions

In a number of cities fluctuation is high, attendance at unit meetings poor, and the meetings themselves rather dull. Analyzing one city where this is marked, we find that the unit discussions have been highly academic. A few well-developed comrades lead all the discussions, which have been more along the line of a class in theoretical Marxism at a Workers School, rather than discussions dealing with the political problems of the Party as raised in the *Daily Worker* or as seen in the local city situation. These comrades could easily lead concrete practical political discussions on such questions as the "strike of the bankers," the high cost of living, lay-offs, or on China or Spain, and their knowledge would be invaluable in aiding the newer and less developed to thoroughly understand these questions. With this type of discussion, the new comrades, especially the trade unionists, would feel that the Party was not "above their heads" and also that the Party was serious about their immediate problems and the problems of the masses today.

In line with this general approach on unit discussions, we find that the Party in this city does not issue leaflets, or carry on neighborhood activity. Our comrades in the shops do not get out shop papers or speak to the workers on their problems in the name of the Communist Party. Since little or no work is carried on by the Party directly, it has little contact with the masses, is no factor in the broad life of the community, and has become quite ingrown. The result has been—stagnation.

This example brings to the fore the necessity of personal guidance to such cities and branches by more experienced comrades, and the urgency of developing unit leadership capable of applying the line of our Party.

How to Recruit

We have found in our experiences that a large number of comrades just do not know how to recruit. Many do not carry application cards, or know how to grasp the proper moment to ask the contact to join the Party. Often they fail to judge how developed the contact really is, and do not fully explain the tasks and aims of our Party, the duties of a Party member.

Many of our comrades become exclusive specialists in, say, trade union work, and cannot deal with such questions as the People's Front, Spain, the U.S.S.R., and the Negro question. Some do not know exactly how to place the question of membership in the Party before contacts.

We must teach our comrades how to recruit, how to sign up contacts. Such methods as open unit meetings, a small gathering at a comrade's home, individual visits, study groups, *Sunday Worker* canvassing, bold and frank discussions with progressive people about the Party, must be explained and encouraged. Let us find new and different ways to bring into the Party those numerous sincere workers who are just waiting to be asked to join.

A very important factor in meeting this problem of how to recruit is the correct and effective utilization of our press and literature. We have so many excellent pamphlets explaining the position of our Party on all fundamental issues. Why not sell or give these to our contacts, following this up by a discussion on the subject of the pamphlet? Certainly the sale and distribution of the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker* can be a tremendous help. A comrade, who has our press and pamphlets with him, when contacting acquaintances for the Party, will feel much stronger, more confident, more assured of success.

Educating Our Trade Union Forces

We have the problem in several cities, as Dayton, for example, of some splendid trade union members who have joined our Party but do not see the Party except as a necessary force to help them organize the trade union. We know that it is very hard to get 100 per cent attendance of these comrades at either unit meetings or new members classes, but we must find the way to educate these fine new comrades so that they understand the manifold role of the Party. We must educate these comrades not only to plan their trade union activities together in the shop unit (they are generally only too eager to do this), but to learn how to promote in their union or other field of work the struggle for peace, against fascism, for independent political action and the People's Front, for trade union unity, for socialism. This means we must drive to train and develop politically our new comrades as well as our older Party members.

Our New Members

In Cleveland we have a splendid example in a shop unit of how to treat new members, and hold them. A comrade recruited eighteen members in the past three months. Each one receives personal attention from this comrade. She has contact with them not only at the unit meeting but in their own homes, in her home, and goes to the movies and other affairs with them. Each person is considered individually, and in turn helped to learn about our Party and its theories. The result is that not one has been lost from the Party. All eighteen are enthusiastic about how the Party helps them in their trade union work. They are eager, also, to help carry out other Party campaigns such as for the *Midwest Daily Worker*, for Spain, etc. The problem here is to make this splendid unit and this comrade not the exception but rather the rule throughout our entire Party.

In a small town on Lake Erie, a strategic iron ore port, we have a fine case of new comrades not only carrying out tasks assigned to them, but also assuming responsibility

for carrying out new work which they themselves plan. Four old comrades were stagnant and inactive. Two new ones were recruited. They carried out work, sold the *Sunday Worker*, introduced resolutions in their trade union, and recruited eleven decisive comrades in the last seven weeks—a good example of new comrades who not only wanted to do the work, but also wanted the responsibility for the job, and credit if it were well done. They were not treated like “poor new” comrades. They were learning the theory and practice of Communism at the same time. This approach must be made the regular approach to all of our new comrades.

Recruiting Among the Negro People

By LEE COLE, Newark, New Jersey

“We have learned that the life of the branch plays as much a role in recruiting as recruiting itself.”

THE third ward is the slum area of Newark. It is in this territory that the majority of the Negroes live. Police brutality, especially toward the Negroes, is rampant. Conditions in the neighborhood are generally of the very worst sort. The Communist Party branch in this ward has a membership composed of about 60 per cent Negroes. About half of the entire membership belong to the Workers Alliance.

Although we carried on some activity and recruited to a certain extent, the fluctuation was so great that the membership remained at a standstill.

Weaknesses in Our Branch Organization

At the beginning of the national recruiting drive, we decided that the first thing we had to do was to improve

the life of the branch and stabilize the membership. Our branch suffered from the following weaknesses:

1. A too frequent change of leadership, which injured the branch development.

2. Branch meetings were too dull. Education was lacking. Discussions that did take place were of too general a nature, instead of emphasizing local problems pertaining to people of the community.

3. Not enough attention was paid to dues. Comrades did not understand the political necessity of dues payments. When comrades fell back in dues, they soon dropped out.

We decided to become more bold and give new and young comrades leading positions in the branch. We began to take up local problems, such as discrimination, relief, police brutality, the building of the united front among the Negro people by helping to build the National Negro Congress. The result was that almost the entire membership participated in discussion rather than the same few comrades every week.

A closer check-up on dues was made. The financial secretary gave a report of how the comrades stood in dues payment. After two weeks, to use the good old vernacular, "a new lease on life" was taken. The attendance increased. Comrades began to look forward to branch meetings; they began to feel that this was the place to present their problems. Now we were ready to enter the recruiting drive with a much healthier perspective.

Recruiting Through Struggles

Our branch set up a recruiting commission composed of the membership director and the three comrades in the branch who headed trade union work, neighborhood work, and work in other mass organizations such as the Workers Alliance. Since the drive, we have recruited 32 workers; 25 Negroes, seven white, of which only two are foreign born; nine are trade unionists and 14 are members of the Workers Alliance.

How were we able to accomplish this? First, because branch life itself improved. During discussions at branch

meetings the comrades who did most of the recruiting pointed out that they were successful because they participated openly as Communists in the struggle of the workers, be it in the shop, mass organization, Workers Alliance, or anywhere workers were found. For the first time they realized that they must "show the face of the Party."

For the first time they saw that they could build the Party at the same time that they were building their trade union or mass organization; for the first time many comrades realized that the "Red scare" was, to a great extent, created by themselves.

About our weaknesses; first and foremost, only about 12 per cent of the membership took part in the drive. Another weakness was that our Workers Alliance comrades became so enthusiastic that they signed up workers who did not know the difference between the Party and the Workers Alliance, who were not yet ready for the Party; consequently we lost them soon. We immediately took this up with the comrades and the situation has been corrected to a great degree.

The next step was to retain these new people. Through experiences we have learned that we could not send these workers to the Section New Members Class for several reasons. They had to go out of their own neighborhood; in many cases they did not have the fare. As a result they stayed away and we soon lost track of them.

Then, although the section class is of a very elementary nature, for these workers we had to simplify it even more. Here we had to stress in detailed form the difference between various mass organizations and the Party; especially between the Party and the W.A., we therefore had to set up a new members' class at our branch headquarters. The result is that the new comrades attend the classes regularly and even express a desire to continue for a longer period of time than required.

As many of our new comrades have become members of the executive and feel that they need further development and training in speaking before the membership, we now also have a class in public speaking.

An outstanding lesson we have learned was that the life of the branch plays as much a role in recruiting as the actual recruiting itself. We saw the extreme necessity of developing the comrades in the branch so that when one leading comrade leaves, we are not compelled to run to the section for help as we have done in the past. We realized that we must at all times be alert to local problems, be they political, social or economic.

We can definitely say that the branch is on a forward march. Our perspective is to make the third ward of Newark into a section with units or branches in the various election districts. The drive is still going strong. We still have recruiting on the agenda of every meeting and as the membership expresses it: the recruiting drive for the third ward will continue until we achieve our ultimate goal—that of a Soviet America.

Lenin Memorial Day for the People

By CLYDE JOHNSON

FOURTEEN years ago, humanity suffered a terrible loss. Lenin, the leader of the world's exploited and oppressed, the genius of socialism, died. Since Lenin's death events of colossal importance have shaken the world. Socialism, irrevocable and unconquerable, triumphed on one-sixth of the earth. The great crisis of 1929 shook the capitalist world to its very foundations, and swept millions of toilers into the historic struggle against capitalism. Monopoly capital attempted to save itself by resorting to barbarous fascism. The rise of fascist power in Italy and Germany has wrought havoc with millions of people at home, spreading death and destruction in their efforts to conquer democratic Spain and in preparation for attacks against the land of socialism. Everywhere fas-

cism has brought the world to the first stage of a new world war.

Fourteen years ago Lenin died. But during these fourteen years Leninism, under the inspired leadership of Lenin's great disciple, Stalin, has gone from triumph to triumph. The victory of socialism in the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Lenin's Bolshevik Party, headed by Stalin, is the greatest triumph of Leninism. That victory was possible because the Russian masses took the path of Bolshevism, the path of revolutionary application of the teachings of Marx and Engels, the path of proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. It was possible because they took the path of Leninism. The heroic single-handed challenge to fascism by Comrade Dimitroff at the Reichstag fire trial was an historical victory of Leninism. It marked the first great battle against Nazi fascism and its first great defeat at the hands of Bolshevism. Dimitroff demonstrated to the whole world not only his own personal extraordinary qualities of mind, and fighting spirit, but the qualities of a Bolshevik, of a Leninist, of a true disciple of Lenin and Stalin. At the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International Comrade Dimitroff outlined the great strategic line of the battle to be fought against fascism.

This Leninist line became a reality in the People's Front in France, in the embattled popular front in Spain, in the fighting unity of the Chinese nation against Japanese aggressors. The People's Front in defense of democracy and peace represents a world historic triumph of Leninism. It is an example of the Leninist strategy which alone can enable oppressed and exploited humanity to triumph over all the forces of reaction.

Today when world fascism attempts to cover up its aggression with anti-Communist slogans we can proudly raise higher the banner of Leninism.

The Rome-Berlin-Tokio alliance against world communism has been recognized by the people as a veil for their drive to destroy democracy, peace and progress. On the other hand, as opposed to fascism and reaction, our Party

the world over is being recognized as the champion of the people, the defender of democracy, peace and progress which fascism would destroy.

The American people are recognizing the Mayor Hagues, Tom Girdlers, Governor Daveys and Father Coughlins as the messenger boys of Wall Street trying to usher in a fascist dictatorship in this country. They oppose Wall Street's sit-down strike that is aimed to stifle progressive action in Congress, defeat progressives in the coming elections and smash the growing progressive union and political movement.

January is Lenin Month

The month of January is the time for every Party member to study Lenin's works with the greatest effort, so our Party as a whole can really "Master Bolshevism." *That is our special task on the fourteenth anniversary of Lenin's death.* During this month there will be many mass meetings for Lenin Memorial Day, and every comrade should help make them more successful than ever before. At the same time each Party member should accept additional personal obligations in relation to Lenin month.

Every Party member should plan to visit all his friends to discuss Lenin Memorial Day and the teachings of Lenin and Stalin in the light of conditions in their union, and their community. Our comrades should understand Leninism themselves so well that they can show their friends what it means in terms of building unions, fighting the high cost of living, winning Farmer-Labor victories in the town, county and state elections, and especially building the Party of Lenin.

Every comrade should be able to convince his friends and all progressives that it is necessary to organize to protect the advances of the people. Lenin's teachings should be brought forward to show them that a strong People's Front is necessary to defeat the attacks of Wall Street on the New Deal, the C.I.O. and all progressive movements. Especially, our comrades should study Lenin to be able to convince their friends why a revolutionary party

of the workers is necessary to guide and be the backbone of the progressive movement. The Lenin Memorial Days should be used to step up the recruiting drive, to win new supporters of Leninism, new members of the Party.

The study of Lenin and Stalin will equip every one of us to carry on a more stubborn and effective struggle against the Trotskyite disrupters of the labor movement and agents of fascism. All comrades should prove to the people how Trotskyism is playing the game of the fascists, and how these swine have allied themselves with fascists, gangster elements, stool pigeons and all anti-democratic forces.

Comrades should make special efforts during January to sell pamphlets by Lenin and Stalin to their friends and neighbors (a special list is advertised on the back cover).

Every unit and branch should have a special open meeting for a discussion of Lenin Memorial during January. Each member should bring his or her friends, and all progressive people in the union or community should be invited. Comrades should be assigned to prepare discussions on Leninism, with particular attention to showing its significance to us in our daily struggles. In these meetings, pamphlets by Lenin and Stalin should be on sale. *And the success of the meetings must be gauged by the recruiting.* New members should be initiated at these meetings, bringing forward the meaning of membership in our Party.

The Lenin Memorial literature advertised in this issue should be sold in large quantities.

Every comrade should recognize that the broad movement developing in our country is new and historical, and it calls for greater work and the recruiting of new forces to make this movement stable, strong and more progressive. We must reach all progressive people and introduce them to Leninism. We, ourselves, must study to fulfil our part in building the People's Front, defeating fascism and reaction, defending peace and progress and winning the masses for socialism.

"The Road Back"— A Story of Lost Units

By K. B., Florida

Ten Negro Communists, in Fort Lauderdale, lost by neglect, were reported found in the first two months of the recruiting drive. These ten brought five new members in, and are now searching for the rest of the thirty "lost" members. They have promised to recruit at least seven more by the next unit meeting.

THIS is an example of what can be done with "lost" units. What happened here has happened to a dozen other units in this state. Our Party lost members because units were not provided with the necessary education. *We did not show them the real role and power of our Party.*

The Communist Party takes a leading position in all struggles of the working class for better conditions and a happier life. It advances the unity of progressive forces in America for peace, progress and freedom. It educates the people to the need of the socialist society as the final solution, and to the evils of capitalism.

We won freedom for five Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon. We play a leading role in building unions and supporting all progressive movements. We no longer stand alone—there are millions with us. As Comrade Browder pointed out in his speech at Chattanooga, Tennessee, we Communists are advancing a mile on the road to socialism. If we see others advancing an inch on the road of progress we should go along with them, help them move along. We will then be that much nearer our goal.

The Ford Lauderdale comrades concluded that their unit became disorganized because the comrades did not understand the leading role of the Party; because of a lack of real education, with planned, organized talks. The fifteen members of the unit now have prepared discussions. Last week they discussed fascism—how it could develop and

what its effects would be in the South, how to prevent it, how to win freedom and equality for all the people.

This unit is now reported to be a live-wire of enthusiasm. They got out leaflets announcing the broadcast of the National Negro Congress. *They had to write these by hand.* People who received the leaflets reported to the comrades that they had listened to the broadcast.

The Southern Florida Section has learned that units don't get lost overnight. We let them dwindle, unnoticed. Planned education is one of the best guarantees for a functioning Party unit.

District Party Builders and Party Organizers (A Review)

By R. GRECHT, Org.-Educational Commission, Central Committee

INCREASED attention to problems of Party organization and growth, particularly since the Central Committee launched the Party Building Campaign, has stimulated the publication of district Party Builders and Party Organizers. Some have appeared regularly since August, and even for months prior to that, reflecting positive contributions to the strengthening of the Party in these districts. Among them we can cite the *California Party Organizer* and the *California Party Builder*, the *Seattle Monthly Guide*, the *Rocky Mountain Organizer* (Denver), and the *Missouri-Arkansas Party Builder*. Other appeared for one or two issues, and then vanished—such as the *Yankee Party Organizer* (Boston), and the *Western Pennsylvania Party Builder*. There has been a revival of the *Eastern Pennsylvania Shock-Brigader*, and now new bulletins make their appearance, such as the *Florida Party Builder*, and the *Hoosier Party Builder* (Indiana).

These Party organs are all mimeographed. They differ

somewhat in content. Some of them deal only with various aspects of Party recruiting, giving detailed figures and an analysis of the work of units and sections, discussing such problems as assimilation of new members and fluctuation, reporting activities in the recruiting drive. Among these we have the examples of the *California Party Builder* and the *Eastern Pennsylvania Shock-Brigader*. Others, such as the *Seattle Monthly Guide*, the *California Party Organizer*, and the *Rocky Mountain Organizer*, deal not only with Party recruiting directly, but other organizational problems and questions of mass work, such as Party education, problems of Party work in the trade unions, financial and press drives, the struggle against lay-offs.

The contents of the December issue of the *California Party Organizer* illustrate the character of this bulletin. The articles include: The financial and circulation drive for the new Communist daily on the West Coast; the tasks of the Party in the struggle against unemployment and the high cost of living; preparations for the Lenin Memorial Meeting; registration, recruiting, and dues; the sale and distribution of literature. Under a column headed, "Last Minute Reminders," we find reference to the Scottsboro Tour, the Convention of Labors Non-Partisan League, and educational notes.

The latest issue received of the *Eastern Pennsylvania Shock-Brigader*, on the other hand, contains full tables of figures on the dues and recruiting status of every section and city, as well as the funds raised in the *Daily Worker* drive. These are followed by two pages of comments on recruiting experiences in the form of "Flashes" from here and there.

One of the most noteworthy features of the *California Party Builder* is its emphasis on problems involving new members, and efforts to lessen fluctuations. Very serious attention is given to these questions in each issue. There is obvious encouragement of new members to contribute their views on what the Party means to them, how new members' classes affect them, how branch meetings should be conducted. With the rapid increase in recruiting in the

California district, how to keep the thousands of new members has become an especially urgent issue. The *California Party Builder* serves to concentrate attention upon this matter.

The *Seattle Monthly Guide*, in the last few issues particularly, has paid considerable attention to the problems of consolidating Party organization in the branches and sections. It now carries a lively special page feature entitled "Bouquets from the Guide Reporter" consisting of cartoons accompanied by pithy comments on the work of individuals, cities and counties. The Seattle district, during recent months, has shown definite advances in recruiting, dues payments, and improvements in Party organization.

One of the latest bulletins we have received is the *Florida Party Builder*. We commend the Florida State Committee for the character of its first issue. This contains an initial article giving three interesting experiences in Party building, with conclusions to be drawn; a short article entitled "The Road Back" (reprinted in this issue of the *Party Organizer*) dealing with the revival of inactive units; comments on registration and dues, an article on "The Right to Vote." All articles are short, and the whole is written in a lively, stimulating fashion. It is a good beginning. Florida is one of the smaller districts of our Party, and the comrades in this Southern state work under great difficulties. If they now attempt to issue regularly a Party Builder, their example may well be followed by other districts of similar character and size.

The Org-Educational Commission of the Central Committee welcomes these district Party Organizers and Party Builders. Of course they can be improved, both in contents and appearance. A good feature, for example, would be experiences of our comrades in building the Party in the course of mass work, that is, how a branch developed activity around the struggles against the high cost of living, or the fight for peace, and how such campaigns brought new members into the Party. It is necessary that a comrade be assigned by the district org-educational commissions to prepare and edit each issue carefully. But, on the

whole, these bulletins serve a useful medium for the exchange of experiences of comrades within the district: they reach down into the ranks of our membership and bring the leadership of the district closer to our members; they provide an interesting and valuable means of issuing instructions other than through the medium of official directives.

We would like to see more of these bulletins in the districts.

Win the Small Towns for the Party and Progress

By BEATRICE SHIELD, Illinois Field Organizer

THE organization of the unorganized into the C.I.O. has aroused the small industrial towns in Illinois and let loose a new force of energy that was previously dormant. For years these same towns presented a fertile field for reaction. The C.I.O. drive, however, and the experiences since the November elections, have shaken up the working class population. It is now easier to approach the workers, who feel much more strongly the need for leadership, with the program of our Party and its press.

Understanding Each Town

In the state of Illinois we have recruited over 350 workers in towns outside of Chicago, and established six units in new territories. We reached, so far, mostly the leaders of the unions in the various communities and those workers who were more or less seeking our program. For instance, a coal miner in the city of Peoria, when asked why he joined the Party, answered, "During the election campaign, they said Roosevelt was a Communist, and I figured if he is called a Communist for wanting so little, I better

look for the real stuff." He found the real Party and is now one of the active workers to recruit more. In an important railroad center, where for about twenty years we had only one Party member, his influence was such that literally dozens were waiting for the Party.

A real concentrated drive to win the small towns for the Party and to build permanent Party organizations in them, raises a multitude of problems. First of all, we have the problem of studying individually and separately the status of the labor movement in the towns, the cultural, social and political life. Basing ourselves on a thorough understanding of these factors in each town separately it is possible to meet with great success.

It is essential that our Party members create strong social ties with their fellow-workers. In one mining town, where our comrades have great influence in the union, the Party was standing still for a long time. Our comrades were considered good fellows, but in a class by themselves. After a thorough examination of the difficulties, our comrades began to seek out the workers socially, get acquainted with their families, have an occasional drink with them, and this contact helped to strengthen the political value of the comrades. The results were that within a short time about fifteen new recruits came in from the U.M.W.A. locals.

The Red Scare

In some towns, we meet with a very strong Red scare among our own comrades. They feel that the Party must remain in the background and the Communists must not be known. This scare comes from the reactionary political character of the towns, our failure to penetrate with our press and literature, and therefore the influence of the capitalist press and the "Red scare." How to cure our comrades is a problem, because the scare only exists insofar as the Party is not a factor, and those comrades who are recognized leaders are not revealed as Communists.

In one town, we proceeded, first, to convince our com-

rades that the workers were interested in our program and would join, and, second, to build the Party. After much insistence, a group of fifteen members of the trade unions and the Illinois Workers Alliance were gotten together and a speaker invited to discuss the press. After the meeting, one of our comrades apologized to the writer, saying: "If I had only known how you would put the stuff out, and how you explained the Party, I would have brought at least twenty fellows from my shop. They are interested in what you speak about and all think that they are Communists." We recruited five that night and laid the basis for such future meetings.

The system we followed was to allow the comrades to get the workers together in their own way. We must never insist on a direct Party meeting, until we convince our own people that the "Red scare" is dead, or where it exists it must be fought. In that same town, one single meeting convinced the comrades that the Party can be built and the scare overcome. They have undertaken to build a press club, which involves unions, in a campaign to build the Party's Midwest paper.

In these types of towns, the method of organizing political discussion groups without any obligations or Party labels has proved very successful. In one town, through such a group, twelve new members were recruited into the Party and a healthy Party organization established.

The Local Leadership

Units can be established with a little work and attention; but to stabilize them and continue building is a big problem. The key to its solution is, of course, competent local leadership.

For instance, in one railroad town we recruited 28 new members in less than two months. The organizer of the unit is the first recruit, with a Party record of two "long" months. In this town, the biggest union is a railroad lodge, which is separated from the rest of labor. The A. F. of L. unions were always small, and the steel mills have not been touched until recently. Politically, the town is under the domination of the Catholic church. The positive factors

are new unions in the C.I.O., a wide socialist tradition among the workers, and a small group of very progressive intellectuals. The possibilities for developing progressive labor action in this town are great. However, our new Party could not see exactly how it fitted in.

At the time the unit was born the Party was conducting campaigns for recruiting, for the Midwest press, for a Japanese boycott, for delegates to the American League Congress in Pittsburgh, for the organization of the Non-Partisan League and for trade union unity, etc. Directives and material on all these campaigns were received by the new unit. It was piled up very neatly without using any of it. The unit had decided that it could not touch any campaign until it had a substantial Party located in the strategic unions and shops. The unit increased from ten to 28 in a short period of time; but the campaigns, the medium through which to reach the masses, they did not touch or quite understand.

The problem here was to convince these new comrades that our Party campaigns are not meant for the Party alone, that if we organize them properly they are means whereby we win greater masses of workers in action and for our Party. We met with the comrades and decided that they work on two propositions while they are building the Party. First, collect money for the Midwest press, and, second, get a delegate to the American League from the railroad lodge. In the process of working on these two campaigns, the comrades began to contact new people, to think about friends, acquaintances and shopmates who might be approached. Contact was made with the intellectuals, and attempts are now being made to organize a progressive press club.

By this method of patiently allowing the comrades to learn through their own experience, we have laid the basis for a greater consciousness of the problems and thrown the new unit into activity among wider groups of workers.

Continuous Contact Imperative

In districts where the territories are large, it is not

possible for either section organizers or a field organizer to meet with every unit every week. However, continuous contact must be maintained if these units are to survive. Contact and systematic Party education, even where there are not sufficiently developed comrades to lead it, must be supplied. Special methods of personal contact and correspondence must be conducted with local leaders to develop their consciousness and responsibility for the Party. It is even necessary that we begin to think about correspondence courses, which are part and parcel of American life.

Thus our experiences show that the Party can be built in the small towns. With great care and attention to individuals and groups of workers, our Party can play a great part in breaking the isolation of the towns from the national labor movement, in bringing a richer cultural life to the youth of the town by fighting for their needs. It can maintain and extend the newly founded unions, utilize the good tradition for labor tickets in order to bring the small towns into the general People's Front movement and thus winning them away from fascist influences. One of the greatest aids to the Party in winning the towns and developing the above movements will be our daily press in the Midwest.

For the Political Education of Party Cadres

By JACK JOHNSTONE, Chicago

I WANT to deal with one of the questions raised in Comrade Browder's report, namely, the program of the People's Front.*

* From speech delivered at enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau, held November 18-19, 1937.

We have tremendous possibilities to give leadership to the movement for this program. We must ask ourselves, however, to what extent do our Party members understand the People's Front program, and how do they carry it out in the mass organizations, in the shops and in the neighborhoods; in which they play an active, even leading role. To what extent are the searching reports and discussions at meetings of the Central Committee and the District Committees made the property of all cadres of our Party—to strengthen them and develop a broad stabilized leadership?

My experience has been that when these political discussions are carried down into the units, in many cases they have lost their political content, because comrades are not able to transmit them effectively.

Transmitting Basic Political Problems to Lower Bodies

We can increase our classes, broaden our schools. This will help immensely, but in the main it is a long-time perspective. *The question is how we can immediately and rapidly reach the functionaries in the lower Party organizations so that they may thoroughly understand the basic political problems.*

Take the question of the People's Front. What Comrade Browder has said about it constitutes not merely a Party document, but a program for the masses which should be transmitted to the unions through discussions on the floor. It is the rounded-out program of millions of people who endorse it, and who can be organized to fight for it. Yet many of our comrades, when they talk about the People's Front in their union, think that they are being immediately labeled as Communists. They have not yet learned how to deal with questions so as to raise the political level of their union membership, basing themselves also upon the speeches of John L. Lewis, of the decisions of the historic C.I.O. national conference, of progressive issues raised by Roosevelt himself. Clearly, we see the necessity for training our Party comrades in the trade unions for greater political responsibility.

In the Chicago district we have discussed this important problem and have tried to meet it by taking steps to broaden and stabilize the leadership politically in the district, to bring to the fore a far greater group of political leaders than now exists, to influence them to assume greater responsibility. The comrades who have the task of advancing politically the struggles in the factory, the neighborhood and the mass organization need much more decisive political guidance and clarification.

We must have more classes and more training schools, but we must have more direct contact between the district leaders and the lower functionaries and branches of our Party. It is not sufficient to have a broad functionaries meeting in the city of Chicago once in a while, with three or four hundred present, listening to an excellent report from district leaders. Only minimum results can come from such a gathering because several hundred comrades at a meeting do not feel the responsibility, do not take notes, do not consider that theirs is the task of bringing the main content of these reports to their branches and units—their sections.

What is absolutely essential is that members of the District Bureau and other Party leaders go out to the sections, meet with smaller groups of functionaries, establish closer contact with the Party down below. For example, in order to bring the discussion of this meeting of the Political Bureau to our membership, we will call in the Chicago functionaries to a dozen or more functionaries meetings, where the Party leaders will make a political report on this meeting. We must insist that every member of the District Bureau, every section organizer, and leader of trade unions, equip himself so that he will be able to present to unit functionaries meetings or to trade union fractions, an analysis of the present economic and political situation and the tasks that flow from it.

Campaign for the Political Development of our Cadres

In Illinois we have decided that it is necessary to carry on more or less of an emergency campaign for the political

development of our present cadres in the Party. The economic and political issues develop so rapidly today, and are so much in a process of flux, that we deem it advisable to hold a series of functionaries meetings at least once a month in order to discuss with these comrades the essence of the new developments, and the organization of a People's Front movement in Chicago.

For example: Did we have the present crucial unemployment problem two months ago? We did not. Quite a new situation developed rapidly, but our Party cadres below did not by themselves immediately rise to evaluate the issue independently, bring forward correct demands. We have to train them to react politically. This training can be advanced if leaders of the district hold frequent meetings with functionaries on political questions and issues, these meetings to be arranged on a small scale, allowing several hours of discussion, giving these comrades the full benefit of meetings of the Central Committee and of the District Bureau. In this way, also, we of the Central Committee, and members of the leading committees in the districts, would benefit more from the experiences, opinions and suggestions of all our active Party forces.

We cannot place too much emphasis on the problem of promoting the political understanding of the lower cadres, thus broadening, stabilizing, and democratizing the leadership of the Party, making our Party able to meet all situations as they arise, to mobilize the masses to stop the advance of reaction, and give new impetus to the advancing People's Front movement in our country.

Let Us Not Only Teach, Let Us Also Learn!

By J. MURPHY, Section Organizer, Dayton, Ohio

IN THE process of recruiting, as Comrade Browder has pointed out, a Party member must be both student and

teacher. Too often have I made the mistake of being only the teacher. Unless the person I am trying to recruit talks at least fifty per cent of the time, I know that I'm not learning enough about my prospect to be able to recruit him.

Here is an example. We sent the president of a C.I.O. local a copy of William Z. Foster's pamphlet on *Industrial Unionism*. According to some comrades he hit the ceiling in anger, saying: "Wait till I catch the guy that mailed these." The comrades felt that we had made a mistake, we ought to leave this fellow alone for some time—until he cooled off. However, I decided to find out about him for myself. I knew that years ago he had been a member of the Unemployed Council and therefore knew a little about our Party. So I went to see him and introduced myself as a Communist Party member. I told him that there were some things I had come to talk over with him. I asked him: "Why are you not a member of the Communist Party?" Then I sat back and listened for over an hour. I found out what he thought about our Party and heard all the arguments we would have to break down before he could be recruited. I found out that he was a friend of our Party, that it was essential to maintain close contact with him.

Take another example. There was a certain worker in a factory here who for a long time had taken our *Daily Worker* but whom several comrades had tried to recruit and failed. When the C.I.O. started to organize his shop, one of the comrades reported that this fellow hesitated to join the union. Then suddenly the company resorted to mass lay-offs to combat the unions. This fellow had worked steadily in that shop for fifteen years. He was one of the first laid off. He joined the union. Later he was elected to become an important officer in his local. I decided to call at his house to talk to him about the Party. After asking him why he did not belong to our Party I learned several things. He had been a Socialist Party member years ago. He thought the united front tactic and the whole line established by the Seventh World Congress incorrect. But most important of all he said he would listen

to my arguments. Four hours later, about midnight, he signed a card, walked home with me, shook hands and said "good night, comrade."

So I repeat—we must not only *talk to* workers; we must also learn to *listen to them*. In that way we will be more successful in building the Party.

Chicago's South Side Advances

By WM. CARTER AND ANN NOWELL

THE RESULTS of the recruiting campaign thus far on the South Side of Chicago, which is the heart of the Negro community in this great American industrial city, have proven the great possibilities existing for mass recruiting among the Negro people. From September 1 to November 12, 240 new members were recruited in this section alone, of whom the great majority are Negroes. Sixty-one of this number are women. At no time before have we made such rapid advances in recruiting within so short a period of time.

The Problem of Housing

The entrance of these men and women into the Party reflects the growing spirit of discontent and militancy of the Negro masses on Chicago's South Side. The most burning issue in this region is the question of housing and high rents. Crowded in this area there are at least 275,000 out of the 335,000 Negroes living in Chicago. During the past three years, thousands of old buildings which have been falling down on their very foundations have been condemned, but for the past ten years not a single new apartment building or a cottage has been built. The result is that you find seven families living in what was once a seven room apartment and is now converted into seven "kitchenette" apartments, all using the same bathroom that formerly one family used.

Such facts as these, which can be multiplied, make the issue of housing acute. We must state that our Party on the South Side has only now laid plans for intensified neighborhood activity in regard to housing and discrimination. Our main mass work has been activity among the unemployed and in the Illinois Workers Alliance. Our section has almost 100 members active in the I.W.A., and we can say that because of this the South Side district of the I.W.A., here in the black belt of Chicago, functions better than in any other district in the city.

In this recruiting campaign, we utilized the method of conducting open membership meetings. We planned and organized these thoroughly, with discussions on vital topics of the hour. Leading comrades from the district and section led the discussion in the branches. The result has been a rapid rise in recruiting.

The South Side section is composed of ten branches. We want to give credit to three particularly: to Ward 5 branch, which recruited 64 members by November 12; to Wards 2C and 2A, which recruited 35 and 31 new members respectively.

We can report that 90 comrades participated in recruiting the 240 new members. We want to commend Comrade Tom, the Organizer of Ward 5 branch; also a new member, Comrade Relford, who, after joining himself, brought in his wife, his daughter and his two sons. Then there is Comrade Dave Young, organizer of Branch 2C, who recruited 27 new members, and Joe Jackson, in Branch 2A, who recruited 30 new members.

We are now determined to have 800 dues paying members by January 1. We, on the South Side, believe that it is possible for us here to have a membership of 1,500 by July 1, 1938. We say to the Harlem Section of our Party in New York:

“Watch out, comrades, you need to work hard now, for we are coming right after you to make our Party grow, particularly among the Negro people.”

Hayward Cannery Workers Join the Communist Party—

(Alameda County, California)

IN A recent cannery strike, workers on a picket line were teargassed and clubbed. By word of mouth and leaflet, it was pointed out that the police attacked the workers instead of protecting them. Therefore the police were used in the interest of the owners—not the workers.

Strikers were arrested. Step by step from the illegal arrest to the frame-up conviction, the strikers (as well as the public) were shown that the courts, the jury, the police, were against the workers and in favor of the owners.

The capitalist press printed lying reports of the strike. This was the opportunity to introduce the *Western Worker*, showing the stand of the Communist Party. On picket duty, back and forth, day and night, the political role of the working class was explained to individual workers.

Before the cessation of the strike, nineteen workers had joined the Party. Among them were most capable leaders. Several had not heard of the Communist Party before the strike. Two did not know what a “vigilante” was; one had never heard of Tom Mooney.

The worker chiefly responsible for this group becoming active Communist Party members at no time hid the face of the Party. He talked naturally of the Communist Party, explained patiently its practical role, convinced the strikers that it was an integral part of American life, and the staunchest fighter for democratic ideals.

Don't “recruit” workers into the Party. Feel towards any average worker that he will be of great benefit to the Communist Party. Try *not* to make him feel like a “recruit.” That's the beginning of isolation. Rather, show him that he, as a worker, can share the responsibility of raising the general standard of all workers; that the Communist Party accepts this responsibility very earnestly and wants him to participate.

New York State Section

ISSUED BY NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY

How We Recruited

(The following are a few of the reports given at the New York Party Builders Conference which reflect the experiences of successful recruiters, experiences that can be emulated in every branch and unit in the Party—Editors.)

RECRUITING A WHOLE PICKET LINE

By S. Eisenberg, Section 2.

MY BRANCH had a quota of 25 new recruits, and up until November 14 had recruited 26 new members. I myself recruited sixteen. A total of ten comrades in the branch participated.

How did we do this? By our activity in helping striking food workers on their picket lines. Here is an example. There were seven workers picketing a cafeteria. Among them were represented five different nationalities, each of which mistrusted to some extent the other's loyalty to the union and the strike. Some of our comrades, with myself, offered our help in picketing, which was accepted. I immediately sensed this mistrust of one another among the strikers, and started to overcome this by talks with them. I had individual discussions, and group discussions. We explained who we were, and told them about our Party. We can report that the entire picket line joined the Party.

WINNING CONFIDENCE BY ACTIVITY

By William Cohen, Brooklyn

I HAVE recruited 19 members into the Party, all painters. I have done this even though I speak a very broken

English, and most of those I have recruited are non-Jewish.

I belong to a painters' union local which has a pretty reactionary leadership. But recently in the painters' strike, I was appointed a picket captain—because I was very active in the union, and was considered a “good fellow” even though my political beliefs were known. As a picket captain, I did not remain in the office merely giving instructions to the striking pickets, but I went right out with the pickets, and participated together with them in their activities—as a Communist should. In this way I won their confidence, and was able to talk to them frankly and freely about the Party.

Some of the workers I approached told me they were not yet ready for the Party. They seem to have been given the impression by some one that they must have the knowledge of teachers and professors before they are welcome in our Party, and thought they were not “fit.” But I convinced them that they were “fit,” that every honest, sincere worker can belong to the Communist Party.

So I say, be a “good fellow,” mingle with your fellow workers. And do not hesitate to ask them to join the Party.

SUCCESS FOR THE ASKING

By J. O., Queens

I HAVE recruited 50 workers into the Party. I have found that the most fertile ground for recruiting is right in the trade unions. The masses are on the march. Thousands are ready to join the Party.

We must learn how to recruit *fearlessly*. Let us not try to make Marxists out of workers before we ask them to join the Party. This Marxist education we can and should give them when they are in the Party. Let's train these workers within the Party.

I have found a ready response among workers with whom I have talked. It has been especially easy to ap-

proach the Negroes—many of whom know our Party through its work in the Scottsboro fight and its defense of Negro rights. I have been bold in my approach and have not hesitated to ask workers to join the Party—that is why I have met with success. There have been comrades who have worked on contacts for months, and did not recruit them; but I succeeded in getting these same workers into the Party because I *actually asked them to join!*

Here is an example of how I recruited. There was one militant worker who joined the C.I.O. union. There was a company union in his shop, however, and the men were not ready to join the C.I.O. I convinced this worker that if we had a Communist Party unit in that shop, we could carry on much better trade union activity.

BOLDNESS AND INITIATIVE

By A. Brande, Section 29, Manhattan

BEFORE the recruiting drive started, our branch had a membership of 58, with about 25 attending meetings. We now have 100 members, on the rolls, with an attendance of 65 to 75 per cent. We have raised \$850 for the *Daily Worker* drive.

We organized the recruiting campaign in our branch on a political basis, having a discussion at two meetings on the political significance of building the Party. But we decided also to have some fun while we were recruiting—to be sociable and friendly.

We were determined not to “nag” the comrades into recruiting, but rather to stimulate socialist competition. We posted a chart on our branch headquarters, with the name of each comrade, listing each week how much money the comrade raised for the *Daily Worker*, and how many new members he or she recruited. We challenged another branch, and we put this challenge into practice. We found that socialist competition can work if it is not taken formally.

We wound up our financial campaign on November 9 with a neighborhood mass meeting to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution.* Over 700 people came to the meeting—far beyond our expectation. At the mass meeting, twelve new members were recruited. These hundreds of workers came down because we have systematically canvassed in the neighborhood, because of our distribution of literature.

We have recruited 50 new Party members. I find we need boldness and initiative in recruiting. Then we will succeed in building the Party.

THROUGH COMRADESHIP

By A. Wolf, Section 18, Manhattan

I HAVE recruited 55 new members.

When I meet a worker, I wonder immediately, "Who is he? What are his interests? Is he a prospect for the Party?"

I develop a conversation with him to find out more about him. Then, if I think this worker ought to be in the Party, I make up a plan as to how to convince him, taking his own special interests and needs into consideration. I act on the basis that every honest intelligent worker is eligible to join the Party.

Some of our comrades approach workers very formally, coldly, and too solemnly altogether. We must act like human beings. We must be warm and friendly to the people we contact. Otherwise they will get a wrong impression about our Party. Let us show by our actions what comradeship really means.

We should know all the answers to the questions which bother the workers today, if we want to convince them to join the Party. And if we read the *Daily Worker*, we will learn the answers.

* How this meeting of 700 was arranged by this branch will be the subject of an article in the February issue of "The Party Organizer."

THROUGH CONCENTRATION

By Corrine Thal, Sunnyside, L. I.

I BELONG to a unit composed of five women and one man, who is our contact man. We concentrate on a railroad yard. Our members have spent many evenings contacting these railroad workers and in this way we helped to set up a local of dining-car workers. We have also established good connections among the cleaners on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Our best means of influencing these workers has been the *Daily Worker*. Regularly we have stood on the railroad bridge selling the paper to the men as they came by. We have won the respect of these workers because they saw us there on the bridge all the time, in rain or shine, cold or snow.

I myself have recruited eight workers into the Party. How did I do this? I used the *Daily Worker* as my best aid. I stood on that railroad bridge as the workers came by, talked to them in simple workers' language. I sold them the *Daily Worker*, which told them more than I could say.

My life began when I joined the Communist Party. I had been evicted from my home, and when I lost my home I thought I had lost everything. But I gained everything when I joined the Communist Party, and I am proud to stand on that railroad bridge with the *Daily Worker*.

THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD WORK

By W. Mancuso, Branch 1, 18th A. D., Harlem

I BELONG to a branch which is one of the best in the section. I am a member of the Party for six months. When I joined the branch there were about 34 members with an attendance of ten to twelve.

We realized that one of the troubles was the weakness of the branch leadership. We therefore reorganized our unit bureau. I was made unit organizer. We began to hold

open-air meetings regularly once a week. We sold 100 copies of the *Sunday Worker* every Saturday night. We took up the issue of housing, because housing conditions in our community are terrible. Our comrades went from house to house to get names of people who are interested in the fight for better housing. We were able to help launch a Tenants' League. We called a mass meeting on housing attended by over 250 tenants of which more than half were Italians—Italians who had been under the influence of fascist leaders and Tammany Hall.

It was through such personal contact with the people in our community, and by raising issues of real concern to them that our branch was able to recruit and grow rapidly. We recruited 20 new members. We recruited new members during the election campaign, even getting contacts to join the Party while talking to them at the polls on Election Day.

Tasks in the Unemployed Struggle

By Philip Washburn

UNEMPLOYMENT is increasing throughout the country as a result of capital's sit-down strike. To rally the newly dismissed with those unemployed for a longer period of time for a fight against the layoffs, and for relief and W.P.A. jobs is one of the most important tasks facing the Party at the present moment.

Before undertaking any organizational steps, it is necessary to get a clear understanding of the political and economic causes of the present recession. A study of Comrade Bittelman's report on the economic and political sabotage of the monopolists, and the articles by Comrades Varga and Lozovsky in *The Communist International* of September will give the necessary clarity. It is not at all necessary that the study of Bittelman's report be restricted to Party members; it can be brought directly to the great mass of workers.

A number of steps can immediately be taken to rally people in the fight against layoffs. The Party branch can set up a committee to study the problem of unemployment as it effects their particular neighborhood, and the branch itself can devote some time to canvassing the unemployed in the neighborhood, urging them to join the Workers Alliance local in the community.

Trade union members of a branch must be made to realize that the unions must take the lead in fighting against the layoffs. Efforts should be made in all the unions to set up committees to handle these problems, going to the home relief bureaus and the W.P.A. in the name of the union, and meeting with other union committees to arrange a common program of action.

Build Community Federations

Successful struggles can be led in the neighborhood. All neighborhood organizations can be united around these issues. In some localities, federated bodies of neighborhood organizations (Workers Alliance, local Settlement Houses, churches and synagogues, tenant groups, etc.) have been set up, for instance, the Lower East Side Federation. Such groups can be mobilized to fight the layoffs by arranging demonstrations around a factory or plant in the neighborhood from which workers have been fired; or by mobilizing the sentiment of the community through petitions, postcards, etc. (by canvassing the neighborhood), against layoffs. Such petitions can be sent to the Congressmen (thus beginning initial work for the Congressional campaign for 1938 by familiarizing the community with the Congressman's stand on the wages and hours bill, housing, W.P.A., relief, etc).

Special attention should be paid to the Negro workers in the community. The first to be fired, they will listen to our arguments concerning the present growth of unemployment and will join in the struggles against layoffs. The *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker*, which carry more news about layoffs and the struggles around unemployment issues than any other newspaper in the city, can be made an

effective instrument in the fight against the layoffs, if it is circulated in the neighborhoods.

The most important action is to bring the issues to the people of the neighborhood, who are willing to fight when the issues are properly presented. Clearly, canvassing through leaflet, literature, etc., is the most desirable method of bringing the issues to the people of the community who will then be willing to act through their organizations.

Facing Problems^{*}

By EARL BROWDER

OUR Party is making great progress. We are securing a thousand proofs of the correctness of our political line, but we have not the slightest reason for self-satisfaction. We have an enormously favorable situation in which we are moving forward fairly slowly. This must make everyone of us very self-critical, must enforce upon us the lesson of modesty, must force us to constantly re-examine each one his own work and collectively our collective work.

... We must approach the problem of our Party building in the light of the tremendous tasks we have assumed, in the light of the limited time we have to accomplish them, with the knowledge of the world of enemy forces with which we are surrounded and which we have to meet and defeat not only in the mass struggles but in the very formation of the character of our Party members and leaders. We have to transform society, and we have to begin that job by transforming ourselves. We have to make the working class powerful and strong. We have to begin by making ourselves powerful and strong and immune to all the influences of a decaying capitalist society. We cannot do it unless we face these problems sharply and clearly. If we face these problems sharply and clearly, we will solve them.

^{*} From report to enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau, Nov. 18-19, 1937.