

Cleveland Membership Meeting for C. E. C.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 7.—A most successful membership meeting was held in Cleveland on Sunday, September 27, with 150 comrades present. Comrade Israel Amter, the new district secretary, spoke on Bolshevization and reorganization of the party.

Comrade Amter went back into the political background for the necessity of Bolshevizing the party. He pointed out the issues that in the past two years had emphasized the necessity of Bolshevizing all the parties of the Comintern. The Trotsky issue in the Russian party, the Brandler-Thalheimer issue in the German Party, the Bordiga issue in the Italian (a supposed "left" issue), the Bubnik issue in the Czecho-Slovakian Party (where Bubnik had the support of the center group), and finally the recent Maslow-Fischer issue in the German Party—all demonstrated that Bolshevization of the parties of the Communist International was imperative.

Defines Loreism.

Comrade Amter dealt at length with the issue of Loreism, and analyzed the question. He showed that Loreism was prevalent in all sections of the party, without the comrades being aware that they are Loreites—right wingers. He showed that made up Loreism, emphasizing the steps that were taken at the party convention to deal with the problem, by the removal of Askeli as editor of the Tyomies, and the expulsion of Lore.

"To the masses," is the slogan of the Communist International and the united front is one of the most effective methods. Trade union work is one of the most important duties of the party members. Not mere membership in the unions, but active participation in all of its work, to bring the masses of organized workers under the influence and control of the party. This can be done in an organized form only if party fractions are built up in all unions. This must be undertaken without delay and with all energy, if the party influence is to grow.

The United Front Tactics.

The united front in one of its most effective fights in the United States is the labor party. Wherever occasion presents itself, steps must be taken to form a local labor party. Sentiment must be created for the idea of a labor party, and the masses won over. The trade unions are the basis of the labor party and this again is one of the reasons that the comrades must become active in the unions.

Defense is also necessary and is becoming increasingly so, in view of the growing reaction. The confirmation of the criminal syndicalism in the case of Gitlow, the new attacks on the foreign-born workers, the attempts to fingerprint all the workers of the country with the intention of keeping control of the militants, the threatened deportation of foreign-born

radicals, the increasing use of injunctions and force by the American government, demonstrate that defense for the militant workers is an issue of the day.

Comrade Amter emphasized the necessity of Marxian-Leninistic education if our membership is to perform its work in a Communist manner. Theory and practice go together, one without the other is not indicative of a Communist. In building up the party, we must also build up the Y. W. L., since they are the future members of the party, and without our help, the young workers will not be brought into the Y. W. L.

Reorganization of the Communist Parties becomes necessary in order that we may get to the masses, root ourselves in their struggles, and become their leaders. Comrade Amter went into the technical details of the reorganization, and showed how the party members will be reorganized and the work intensified by each comrade having a task assigned to him, a duty that he will perform under the discipline and control of the nucleus.

The many questions asked showed that the comrades had grasped the idea of Bolshevization, but had to have the small points cleared up. Then followed discussion on a high plane, except for a few ideological slips, which had to be corrected. Considerable literature was sold and a good collection taken up.

All in all, the comrades declare that this was one of the best meetings that they have held in Cleveland since the discussion began in the party.

The following resolution was adopted:

This membership meeting held in Cleveland, on September 27, 1925, declares its complete agreement with the decisions of the Communist International and the party convention on the questions of reorganization of the party on the basis of shop nuclei and on Bolshevization of the party.

This meeting recognizes that the present form of organization is a relic of the days of social democracy, which keeps the revolutionists apart from the masses and does not prepare the Communist Party for immediate participation in all the struggles of the workers. Only by rooting the party deep in the masses at the place where they labor, viz., the mines, mills and factories, will it be possible to build our party into a mass Communist Party. This meeting recognizes that the members of the party who are not engaged in industrial work, and various individual members, who are industrial workers, for whom it is impossible for the time being to form shop nuclei, must be grouped together in international branches.

This meeting pledges itself to do everything in its power to assist the

C. E. C. and D. E. C. in the complete reorganization of the party, in order that within the shortest time possible, our party may be completely reorganized on the basis of shop nuclei.

This meeting, however, also recognizes that only if a complete Bolshevization plan is adopted and carried out in the party will the membership be equipped for the tasks that fall upon them. Education in theory and practice of Communism are imperative. Marxian-Leninist education must become a most important task of all units, so that every comrade will become familiar with Communist theory and work.

But not by theory alone will our comrades become real Communists. The Communist Party is a party of action. Hence the party must participate actively in the struggles of the workers, adopting such policies as are needful in order to bring the party close to the masses. At this period of the struggle, trade union work is absolutely essential. Every party comrade eligible to membership in a trade union must join a union. He must become active in the union and seek for leadership and control. In order, however, to do Communist work in an organized form, party fractions must be formed.

The united front is one of the most important Bolshevik tactics at the present time. The campaign for the labor party, the campaign for building up a defense organization—the International Labor Defense—must be propagated with all energy, and the organizations built up.

Work among the Negroes, among women, and particularly work to build up the Communist Youth organization, the Y. W. L., must be regarded of major importance.

The membership meeting regards the Bolshevization plan and the reorganization of the party on the basis of shop nuclei as the most essential means of activating every party comrade. This Bolshevization will mean the throwing off of all non-Communist elements still in the party. The party convention took the proper steps in removing Comrade Askeli as editor of the Tyomies, since his position was typical of right wingism, and would retard the Bolshevization of the party. This meeting approves the expulsion of Lore from the party, since he is unworthy of and unfit for membership in the party. This membership meeting declares that the party convention took the proper steps in Bolshevizing the party when it took these measures, and the membership present at this meeting pledges itself to do everything in its power to wipe out right wing tendencies, to the end that our party may become a Bolshevik party worthy of membership in the Communist International and capable of leading the workers and poor farmers of this country to a successful revolution for the establishment of the proletarian dictatorship in the United States.