

# Workers (Communist) Party

## How Shall We Gain Members for the Party?

By I. AMTER.

IT is a fact in all parts of the country, that there are not enough comrades to do the work of the party. The party is handicapped for various reasons: 1) the reorganization of the party, 2) the inexperience of the party comrades in the new form of work, 3) language difficulties.

### The Reorganization and the Party.

Unquestionably the reorganization of the party has done much to keep the party from functioning as it should. This is not novel in the Communist International. The recent organization conference held in Moscow just before the Enlarged Executive Committee demonstrated that the Communist parties have to bridge over many difficulties when reorganization takes place. Not that these difficulties should be magnified; on the contrary, if proper co-operation takes place, the reorganization can be brought about with ease.

The reorganization, however, cost our party a large number of members, and no comrade should shrug his shoulders and say there is no loss to the party, if the members who left should not rejoin. On the contrary, either due to misunderstanding or inability to think themselves into the new form of organization, some comrades have left, who would be very valuable to the party. It is true that some of them may not have been the type that wish to do much work; but party work can be learned, and willingness to do it may be acquired. Hence, in many instances, it will be found—as it has already been found—that members who have rejoined the party become good party members. Therefore, slogan number one: All former party members possible must be brought back into the party.

### Recruiting.

Inexperience in the new form of party work has not only hurt us in the performance of the fundamental work of the party, but has also made it difficult for us to get new members. The party membership, during the days of language branches, rarely increased thru work in the shops. Most of the members came to the party thru contact in the fraternal organizations, unions, etc. This work must be intensified, and every left winger, who is eligible to membership in the party must be brought in.

It must be understood, however, that the work in the trade unions, fraternal organizations, etc., has not been changed in form. It remains the same, but is intensified and broadened.

The work in the shops is the novel part of the reorganization. Work thru the shop and street nuclei gives us more direct contact with the workers. It must not be expected, however, that the workers will flock into the party just because we have reorganized and now present ourselves to the workers in an organized form in the shops. It must be acknowledged that the broad masses of the workers know nothing about the party. The publication of shop bulletins brings us close to the workers on the question of their daily problems, and wherever there is a shop nucleus, we must have a shop bulletin. Street bulletins or neighborhood bulletins should be issued by the street nuclei, occupying themselves with taking up the questions that harass the workers wherever they live. This presents the par-

ty as the expression of the workers who are fighting for better conditions.

But this is not sufficient: whenever there is a condition in the shops, the Communists must be the first to make proposals for the changing of conditions and to organize the workers for fighting for the change. This deals with immediate conditions in the shops—whether they are wages, hours, working conditions or anything else. The workers are impressed by nothing more than leadership—milkancy and policy.

If in fighting for the interests of the workers, however, we fail to make recruits for the party, we are neglecting one of the most important party tasks. Recruiting as a daily task, has not become ingrained in the minds of our party membership. Nor have we yet learned to utilize non-party sympathetic organizations for getting party members. We have acquired too much the "non-party" spirit of these non-party organizations and have forgotten that they are excellent recruiting grounds for the party.

Slogan number two: Regular recruiting campaigns as a result of activities of the nuclei must be conducted in the shops and residential sections.

### Language Difficulties.

Difficulty of language has impeded the growth of the party. Since the break-up of the language federations, the party members have manifested some loss of interest in the party work. This is due to the common basis thru language have been taken from them. They feel unable to express themselves in English. As Communists, we must provide ourselves with one of the most necessary tools, and that is language. Not that all party members must become public speakers, but they should acquire sufficient command of the English language, so that they reach practically any worker in the shops. The knowledge of foreign languages is advantageous, but English must be regarded almost as basic. Owing to the disadvantage of not knowing the English

language well, many of our comrades hesitate about speaking to English-speaking workers. I realize that very frequently they feel exposed to the ridicule of the American-born worker—and that keeps many comrades from being active in the trade unions. But if they realize that the antagonism against the party is in a large measure due to its being a Bolshevik Party (most workers do not understand the word Communist, but fully understand Bolshevik), they would not be embarrassed by their inability to master the English language, but would battle thru the barrage of antipathy and fight to gain the sympathy of the workers regardless of this handicap.

Slogan three: To the front—as good soldiers—to overcome the language difficulties that many comrades suffer from.

### Unequal Distribution of Capable Comrades.

One further difficulty in the path of the party is that we have at the present time an unequal distribution of the capable comrades in the party. When the party begins to realize the importance of certain districts and certain industries, and seriously considers the necessity of distributing comrades thruout the party—particularly the young comrades—we will have leadership in each locality and shift the comrades until in each town we have at least one leader to represent the party, direct the party comrades, who are most eager to do work and are not daunted by defeats, and aid most effectively in getting new workers into the party.

Therefore, slogan four: Young members of the party and of the Y. W. L. must be trained for party work, must be dispatched to work in the strategic points of certain industries and thereby aid in building up the party and the Y. W. L.

Nothing will contribute more than the leadership of the party as a whole to win recruits for the party—and this leadership can be shown only in the daily struggles of the workers—a leadership in fact and not in theory.

## WORKERS PARTY ASKS SOCIALIST PARTY OF CALIFORNIA TO UNITE IN MOVEMENT FOR A LABOR TICKET

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8. — The California district organization of the Workers (Communist) Party has issued an appeal to the Socialist Party of California, and to Upton Sinclair S. P. candidate for governor of that state, proposing that the Socialist Party of California join in the issuance of a joint call to all labor unions and other workers' organizations to participate in placing in the field this fall a united labor ticket.

The formation of a special sub-committee to meet with a similar committee of the Workers Party is suggested, the two sub-committees to be charged with working out a program for the purpose.

In a letter to Lena Morrow Lewis, state secretary of the Socialist Party of California, the district organizer of the Workers (Communist) Party of the district says: "We feel that if the Communists and the Socialists make this united front appeal it will go a long way in advancing the formation of a state Labor Party in California."

### Appeal To Socialists.

The appeal to the Socialist Party says:

"Dear Comrades:

"The present industrial and agricul-

led by the private water and power interests.

"Military training has been intensified in the universities, high schools and even the higher grades in the grammar schools. Constant propaganda against Japanese workers is being carried on, while ever increasing appropriations for military purposes are being made for this state. All of these are for the purpose of creating war spirit and making the necessary preparedness for a war on the Pacific.

"These conditions and the recognition by the workers and farmers of the fallacy in hoping to get relief from the two capitalist parties, makes this the most opportune time to crystallize the dissatisfaction into a definite independent political expression of the workers and farmers.

"Now is the time for the workers to organize themselves independently on the political field.

"We, therefore, invite the state executive committee of the Socialist Party of California, to issue jointly a call to all labor unions and workers fraternal organizations for the purpose of placing into the field a united labor ticket. We also suggest that a special