

# The Party in New York and Work Among Jobless

## Make Plans to Launch Drive for Unemployment Insurance Bill

By I. AMTER

II.

(e) Since the adoption of the Open Letter, we have begun to apply the general principle of **concentration**. Although in application to shop and trade union work it still is proceeding too slowly, nevertheless some headway is being made. But in the unemployed work, particularly in New York, this principle does not apply either to the work of the City Council, its leading functionaries or the lower organizations. Their work consists of a system of **general, diffused** activities that naturally produce no results.

(f) The tendency still persists in the minds and practice of the comrades to engage in **demonstrations**, instead of working in a concentrated manner. **Demonstrations are a stage of development of the movement which, through its mobilized strength, rallies still further forces.** When the movement is weak and isolated, to propose demonstrations is to **evade the hard, daily work** without which a demonstration cannot be successful.

(g) Work among the Negroes is at a low ebb. Harlem is a **District concentration** section. Nevertheless, although the situation among the masses in Harlem and the other Negro sections of the city is **most deplorable**, we have not yet won the

confidence of the Negro masses, through failure to carry on day to day work.

The unemployment and relief situation in upper and lower Harlem, the condition of the tenement houses, the overcrowding, the hunger of the children, need no description. But if in a tenement house that has long been condemned the stairs are broken down and rat holes are so large that a child can crawl through—and the Party and the Unemployed Council have not made this an issue not only of the occupants of the house, but of all Harlem, then the negligence of the Party is serious. This has not been done, because of our isolation and failure to carry on work in this most important concentration section of the District.

(h) There is a serious lack of leading forces. The Section Committees have not assigned the best forces, and these forces have in many instances been demoralized by a process of hunger, lack of direction, wrong line and practices, etc. It is a sad and sharp commentary on the unemployed work of the Party that out of the hundreds of thousands of workers that the Unemployed Councils have led, there has developed only a small number of leading forces. This is due to the bureaucratic handling by the Party, the lack of faith in the workers themselves, the failure to bring promising workers forward and give them training and help. The unemployed movement should develop the largest number of leading forces—men and women, many of whom have had organizational experience in the unions and other organizations. This is not the case at all in New York and is a most serious danger.

(i) The Trade Union Unity Council and its affiliated unions have done little or nothing about unemployment. Although a few unions in New York did good work—as, for instance, the Marine Workers' Industrial Union—and some others did spasmodic work, with no direction being given to the comrades assigned, as in the needle trades, at the present time this work is practically at a standstill—no doubt under the influence of the N. I. R. A. and because of shop concentration.

This neglect of the T. U. U. C. had to be fought against for a considerable period because of the attitude of a leading comrade. This attitude does not exist in the T. U. U. C. now, but no work is being done.

### Forced Labor Increases

The number of workers doing forced labor on the relief jobs has increased tremendously; nevertheless neither the Unemployed Council nor the T. U. U. C. has considered this question sufficiently, worked out plans for organizing the workers, assigned forces, etc.

(j) Work has been done in the A. F. of L. unions on the Workers' Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill and other issues raised by the A. F. of L. Committee, but otherwise the campaign has had a purely propaganda character, with no action whatever.

This shows an untenable situation—and discloses the main sources, both politically and organizationally, of the serious weakness of the unemployed work in New York today. (We do not speak of the weakness of the work outside of New York City and a few surrounding towns, for, in the rest of the district, unemployed work does not exist at all.)

This situation is a menace to the entire work of the district.

The attacks being made on the unions of the Trade Union Unity League; the efforts to squelch the efforts of the militant rank and file in the reformist unions; the attempts to smash strikes by forbidding picket lines, through injunctions, compulsory arbitration, etc.; and particularly the increasing efforts to secure strikebreakers, to cut relief and introduce forced labor on a general scale, make it **OBLIGATORY** that the situation be changed without delay. The discussion in the District on the basis of the extended resolution on unemployed work in July has had no effect whatever, because it did not touch the **BASIC QUESTIONS**.

(Concluded Tomorrow)

## No Pay in Months on S.S. Munorleans

By a Worker Correspondent

BALTIMORE, Md.—As a member of the Marine Workers Industrial Union, and a delegate of the Baltimore Local, I visited the Munson Lines S.S. Munorleans to sell the "Marine Workers Voice" and have a talk with the crew.

One told me that he had worked hard with very little food for four months, yet had never been paid. He was married, had a wife and a kid, and they were looking to him for money for food and shelter. He read me a letter from them stating that they had been depending on the charities to keep them alive and were now cut off from that, being told that "if your husband is working, you are entitled to no relief."

### Men Not Paid.

This man, an officer, was in tears and called me into his room and asked if our union could get them their pay. The other officer that I talked to had been fired in another port, had not got any money and was riding with the ship until they gave him his money. The oilers worked only at sea and upon entering a port they went on strike, refused to work. But the deck gang would not support them.

Now, as I am writing this, with the help from the Local, we have convinced the deck gang that they must strike.

### Leaky Pipes

There are five inches of fuel oil on the tank tops, and the pump is throwing it all over the fire room. All the tubes in both the port and starboard boilers are leaking, and the water is also running over the fire room. The decks are patched with two inch boards and cemented to hold them. Her bottom is unseaworthy.

No member of the crew has had any money in months. They are sickly and underfed. The food gagged me as I looked at it. The bedding is a shame and disgrace to the human race. The fo'c'stle I mistook for the fire room, dingy, filthy, pipes leaking everywhere. And as you walk down the allway, water beats down on you like rain from above where leaky pipes are throwing steam. It is a trap of death. The bottom of the sea is calling the Munorleans and its crew.

Unit 4, Section 5, Detroit District, more than tripled its quota in the \$40,000 Daily Worker Drive. How about the other units?