

How to Improve Our Work Among Jobless in New York

More Clarity and Boldness Needed in Struggle for Unemployment and Social Insurance

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(Conclusion)

What is to be done? The following steps have already been discussed and agreed upon, and must be put through with all energy:

1. A thorough clarification in the Party and all mass organizations on the N. I. R. A. as an instrument against the workers and for war.

2. Clarification on unemployment and social insurance and the bringing about of a conviction not only of its need but that it can be realized through struggle.

3. The application of the principle of concentration—with Upper Harlem and a section of the west side as the concentration points. This concentration to be made more specific and to embrace a small, well selected area from which to begin and spread out.

Neighborhood Work

(a) The leading comrades of the City Council to be assigned to these concentration points, to spend their major time in the neighborhood with the workers, finding out the immediate issues and organizing and leading the struggles.

(b) Comrades assigned by the two sections are to work at the same points. They should be comrades with initiative, who should seek to come into leadership through their activity.

The sections must cease giving orders to the Unemployed Councils. They must build the Party fractions in each assembly and council and bring forward the Party line and proposals through the fractions.

4. Similarly in the other sections, a few active comrades with initiative are to be assigned, not as leaders but to work among the unemployed. Within two months in all sections they shall have participated to such a degree, built up such forces and helped in such struggles, that elections can be held in every assembly and council and the most militant comrades be elected into leadership. Whether Communists will be elected into the leadership will depend on whether they have proven through the struggle that they have the confidence of the workers.

One of the main tasks of the comrades will be to bring forward new

workers—particularly Negro workers in Harlem and the west side—and to recruit them into the Party and Y. C. L. The sections and units, on the other hand, must not seek to use these comrades for other work, but allow them to develop further the unemployed work.

The work of the Unemployed Council must be popularized through leaflets, open air meetings, the Daily Worker, Hunger Fighter, open hearings, etc. This has practically ceased.

5. The T. U. U. C. and each union shall immediately take up the unemployed work and assign forces to work among the unemployed workers of the various industries, co-ordinating the work with that of the Unemployed Councils. Efforts shall also be made to activize the rank and file of the reformist unions.

a). Comrades must be assigned to work on the work relief jobs. They must be helped to form committees on the job and build up organization, with the perspective of forming a relief workers organization in the city. Work relief will remain a permanent form of work and permanent organization will be needed to cope with it. The aid also of the reformist trade unions must and can be won, for the conditions on the job and the character of the work are lowering the scale of union workers. In Nassau County, for instance, the building trades workers' scale is the same as that of relief workers who do the same work, namely \$3 a day.

6. In accordance with the general situation, plans should be laid to launch the campaign for the Workers Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill.

These are only a few of the most immediate steps which cannot be delayed not only in New York but in many other districts. With an effort to get new forces from the unemployed themselves and to train them, and at last to break the bureaucratic hold that persists in the unemployed work, the movement should go forward by leaps and bounds. The objective situation makes tremendous strides possible. We must change our methods of work to meet the problems and obligations imposed by the situation.