

IN THE LEAGUE

By SAM DARCY

While Romanticists Are Lost.

SOME comrades with a very philosophical air pronounce their outlook as a pessimistic one. Since the onslaught against this ideology has developed, they do not use the word "pessimism," but speak about revolutionary activities of the Party and League in such manner as to indicate this.

The source for this pessimism is traceable to four origins:

1. Those comrades who have been unable to adjust themselves to the reorganization, partly because of their lack of contact with young workers in factories.

2. Those comrades who are backward theoretically and shift in conceptions and understanding with every outward superficial manifestation.

3. Many of our comrades, particularly our foreign comrades, have for the past few years been living in the psychology of the revolutionary events in Europe. The reorganization has to a large degree awakened us to a little realism in regard to the situation in America. The comrades have become pessimistic because instead of using the phraseology of advanced revolutionary situations we have learnt to begin to develop the most elementary ideas to suit the backward situation in this country. Those comrades who did not correctly estimate the status of American conditions correctly before think that the masses are becoming more reactionary.

4. Some of us saw only the trade union movement as fields for revolutionary activity. We did not see the broad class struggle but only the fight for ousting the bureaucracy in the trade unions. Now that the trade unions are far to the right and have been moving thus during the recent period we are struck with pessimism.

Once we understand the sources of pessimism, we see its superficiality and do not have patience with it. Those who are grounded in Marxism-Leninism and have a full and unromantic knowledge of the American situation never are either saturated with pessimism or exaggerated optimism. Changing situations must simply be met with shanging tactics.

Today with the trade unions moving to the right, the large masses of unorganized workers seething with demand for organization become a fertile field for our activity. This was in essence the result of the discussion at the last Party plenum.

It is of tremendous importance to us, the youth, that the Party should so direct its efforts. For our task is essentially among the unorganized where the mass of the young workers are. It will give impetus to our work and create better possibilities for us.

We should welcome the results of the plenum, and while the Romanticists lost in their dream of an immediate revolutionary situation cry their pessimism let us take advantage of the conditions at hand and march forward.

Reorganization or Inner Life.

IN many of our districts our units do not function well. Comrades immediately fall back upon the one excuse they can see, the reorganization. Examine the minutes of the meetings of lower units and you will find—what? That nine-tenths of the meetings are all taken up with business. This is the real sore spot. In our orthodoxy we have developed a contempt for good, interesting programs in the lower units so as to make the meetings interesting. Lectures, discussions, symposiums, reading of working-class literature, living newspapers, and a dozen other things will help create interest and give greater life to our League. Many of our units are bodies

without souls, and the result is that the body is listless. We can give it a soul by having an interesting program at the next meeting. Try it.

The writer is a member of a nucleus which has an average attendance of fifteen, including outsiders, when interesting programs are prepared. But in the very same nucleus there are three and four during business meetings. Close study of the situation in almost every district has convinced me that this is true everywhere.

The trouble is not with our reorganization but with the lack of inner life. Write to the district and national agit-prop directors for suggestions,