

# *Call District 2 Negro Workers' Conference*

By OTTO HALL.

To All Party Members:

Comrades—

The District Bureau, through the Negro Department of District 2, is calling a conference of all Negro and white Party members doing Negro work Saturday, Nov. 23, 4 p. m. sharp, at the Workers Center, 26 Union Sq.

This conference marks the beginning of a general drive to increase the Party membership in our district and will deal particularly with the question of attracting more Negro members to our Party. We expect by means of this conference, to exceed the general quota already given for the district by bringing in at least five hundred Negroes to the Party.

Among the many questions to be discussed at this conference will be the complete re-orientation of the district on Negro work. The entire membership must be made to see that the Negro work is not something within itself, separate and apart from the general tasks of the Party, but must understand that this work is a part of and must be linked up with all the problems facing the Party, particularly in this critical period when we have an intensification of our fight against rationalization, the war danger, unemployment, etc.

The Negro workers, together with the white workers, must be mobilized for the revolutionary struggle in the U. S. A., and for the defense of the Soviet Union. To accomplish this task, we must give leadership to the masses in their struggles and carry on an intensive agitation among them, pointing out to them that the Soviet Union is the only country in the world where workers have achieved their independence and established a workers government,

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# Negro Conference

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thereby becoming the fatherland of all workers and exploited peasants, regardless of race or nationality.

We must see the question of organizing the Negro workers in the light of the third period, a period that is bringing about the rapid radicalization of the workers, particularly the Negro workers, who, because of their low economic position are the hardest hit by the intensive rationalization process that is going on at this time. This radicalization of Negro workers was clearly shown by the large Negro delegation that attended the Cleveland Convention of the Trade Union Unity League held recently. Because the Negro workers are unskilled mainly, and unorganized, they are the first to suffer from this increasing wave of unemployment brought about by the intensive rationalization going on in the industries. Since they are unorganized they are unable to resist the speed-up and wage cuts from which they suffer. It is noticeable that in recent months in the New York District, more and more Negro workers are being thrown out of jobs and along with this, the police terror against them is increasing.

Rent robbery and bad housing conditions are acute. The possibilities for the organization of these workers into our Party and the Tenants' Leagues into fighting unions under left wing leadership, are correspondingly increasing.

Marx wrote many years ago in the Communist manifesto: "Every class struggle is a political struggle." What is particularly noticeable in this period is the speed with which these local economic struggles grow into class and therefore political struggles. The workers find that any organized effort on their part to resist the speed ups, wage cuts, etc., are met with all the forces of the capitalist state, police, courts, militia, etc., operating on the side of the bosses against the workers. Because these conditions are bringing about a closer solidarity of the black and white workers in their common fight against the onslaught of the bosses, the capitalist class is becoming worried and is busily intensifying its propaganda of race hostility and segregation (increased attacks on Negro workers by white gangsters, increasing police brutality and the sharpening of racial discrimination). We must counteract this activity of the capitalists by increasing our efforts to organize and unite these workers in the shops and mills, by building shop nuclei.

The conference will also take up the question of increasing our cadre of Negro organizers by drawing all new Party members into the Workers School and into the general work of the Party and League. It will also discuss plans for drawing more white comrades into Negro work. It will also take up the question of strengthening our influence in the mass organizations and building these organizations into effective instruments of struggle. We are faced with the serious question of reestablishing the Negro Champion as the necessary organ to reach the great mass of Negroes. Every Party member should participate and do his part to establish this organ. It is self-evident that our work has been seriously hampered through our inability to bring out this paper. Our Negro work has suffered particularly from a lack of coordination of the Party, Trade Union Department, Women's Department, and Y. C. L. in this district, therefore, this question must occupy an important place on our agenda.

We can see from the above outline program how important it is for us to take definite action on the problems before us and only by this means will we be able to build the party in this district. The New York District, like other districts

Lashes, Palmeris, Krats, Gordons, Buchwalds and other agents of the bosses, may be formed.

## Spread the Strike!

"Fellow workers: the International officials and the right wing gang are now completely exposed as strikebreakers and agents of the bosses. Any meeting that they call is a scab meeting. Any union that they form is a company union. Any settlement they make is a settlement of the bosses.

"Your union meets in Manhattan Lyceum at 10 o'clock today. Come there and continue the fight for the 40-hour, five-day week and the other demands! Spread the strike to the porters, floor scrubbers and other building service workers! Revive the spirit of 1927! Out with the scabs! Down with strikebreakers and agents of the bosses! Help build a powerful union of all building service workers!"

## FAKERS BOOST RED CROSS.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—The fact that the Red Cross, the capitalists' hypocritical relief organization, refused the striking Ohio coal miners families relief in 1928, does not prevent the labor misleaders of the Painters' Union from boosting this organization with a cover display on the fakers' monthly organ.

in the party, in proportion to the number of Negro workers in the district (Harlem alone has over 200,000 Negro workers) have to date succeeded in organizing very few of these workers into the party. This condition must be remedied. The Communist Party must rally all exploited workers to the fight against capitalist oppression. Since the Negro workers are the most exploited of all groups, it is necessary to intensify our work among these masses. Along with our organizational campaign, we must clarify the atmosphere in our party which has formerly hindered our Negro work, by intensifying our fight against all forms of white chauvinism that may exist, so that we can prepare the way to hold these new members in the party and increase our influence among the Negro masses.

In our fight against the Lovestone renegades and right wing conciliators who are fighting the party, our answer to their disruptive tactics must be to build and strengthen the party. It was this group under the leadership of Lovestone and Pepper which was mainly responsible for the neglect of the Negro work because they were influenced by the social-democratic theory of the impossibility of organizing the Negro masses. It was Lovestone who advanced the theory "of the reactionary mass of Negro peasants" which was sharply criticized and repudiated at the Six Congress in the Resolution on the Negro Question in America. It was pointed out in this resolution that the Negro masses are not a reserve of capitalist reaction, but because of their oppressed condition, are potential allies of the revolutionary proletariat. The mobilization of the Negro masses for our party is one of the most important tasks of our party and every comrade must take this work as a major task.

This conference will mark the beginning of one of the most important steps in the history of our party, and must be made the beginning of real work in the district.

**Build the Communist Party!**

**Fight race and class oppression.**

**To the shops! Build shop nuclei!**

**Fight against white Chauvinism!**

**Strengthen our left wing trade unions!**

**Mobilize the Negro masses!**

**Establish the Negro champion!**

**Unite the Black and White workers!**

**Every Comrade, an active Comrade!**

**Build the Workers' School!**

**Fight against imperialist war!**

**Defend the Soviet Union!**

**—For the Negro Comrade District No. 2.**