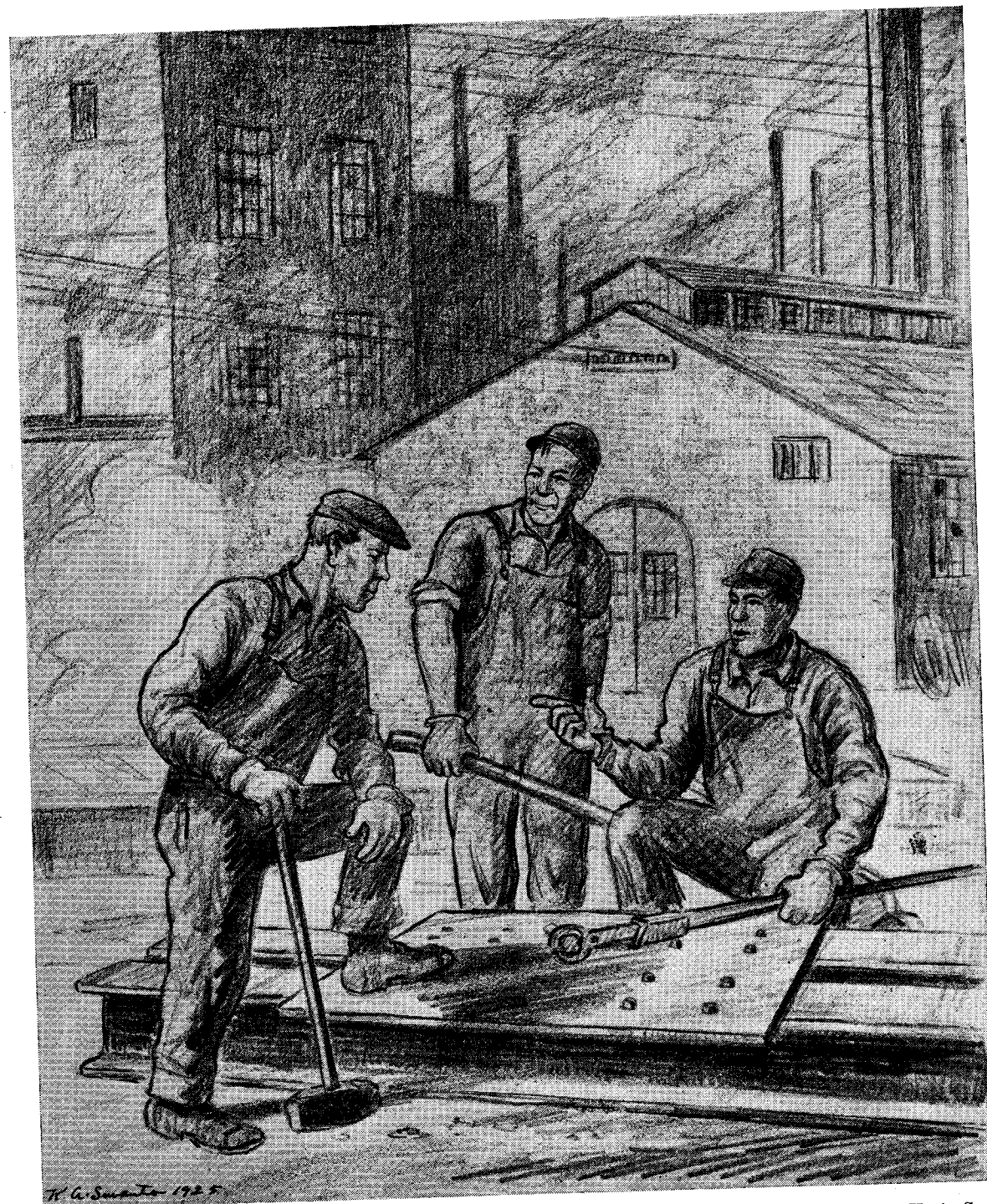




SHOP NUCLEUS.
(From Vappu).

K. A. Suvanto.

Communism in the Shops

By Martin Abern

BOLSHEVIZING the Communist parties and Young Communist leagues throughout the world is directly linked with the problem of completely organizing the parties and leagues on the shop nuclei basis, that is, making the combination of party members at the place of work the basic political unit of the organization.

Popularization of the historical and practical necessity of building the Communist Party units in the shops has gone on for a considerable length of time. The theory has been accepted. Today, the parties and leagues are concerning themselves with the actual organization of shop and factory nuclei. Still there have not been sufficient written directions to help the parties and leagues in this work.

Comrade Richard Gyptner was the first to write a detailed and lucid pamphlet ("FROM ISOLATION TO THE MASSES"), on this subject. This was based a good deal on the experiences of the Russian party and league and presented a solid, well-thought-out pamphlet dealing with the theory and practice of shop nuclei. Every comrade should make an effort to read it.

Practical Instruction on Organizing Shop Nuclei.

The Young Communist International has been instrumental in pushing the shop nuclei reorganization both in the Communist parties and in the Young Communist leagues and has gotten out the most literature on the subject. Now it comes forward once again with the very instructive and valuable pamphlet, namely, "INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BUILDING UP OF SHOP NUCLEI,"* and their practical work as the basic units of a Communist organization. It is the first of a series of pamphlets on this and other questions affecting party and league work. The series is called "The League Worker." This particular pamphlet, very simply written, based not on theories alone, but on actual experiences in the work of organizing shop nuclei, is of real value to every Workers (Communist) Party and Young Workers League member.

That shop nuclei work has passed from theory to practice is shown by the fact that in Germany, the Young Communist League has over 300 shop nuclei, Czecho-Slovakia 108, Italy 84, Poland 45, Sweden 40, Great Britain 12, American 10. These figures are several months old. All the organizations have more nuclei today. In Esthonia and Finland where the Communist movements are underground the Party and League are organized altogether on the shop nuclei basis. This is the main reason why the Esthonian and Finnish movements have been able to survive during the period of fearful oppression and white terror. The Communist parties, also, following pressure from Comintern and Y. C. L., have made great headway in organizing parties on the shop nuclei basis especially in Germany and Czecho-Slovakia.

Every factory must be a Communist stronghold. That is the strain which runs all thru this fine little pamphlet of instructions. In detail it takes up the technical side of organizing nuclei, such as number of members needed, time

and place of meeting, officers, the activities at the meeting, work of each member, etc. The pamphlet goes into the manner in which the literature should be distributed in the factory and how to meet the antagonism and opposition of the boss on this and other questions.

Beginning with the problems of shop conditions, wages, strikes, hours, grievance committees, the pamphlet deals with the means by which the shop nucleus develops the elemental job problems into broad political issues.

The workers organized in the basic and large-scale industries, the industrial proletariat in the mines, mills, railroads, etc., are the backbone of any revolutionary movement. They must form the absolute majority of a Communist party or Young Communist league.

Reaching the Industrial Proletariat.

This improvement of the social composition in Communist organizations and the prevention of decay and petty bourgeois development can be gotten through shop nuclei which bring about permanent mass contact with the working class. How the ideas of the party members and the direction and conduct of their work are changed because of their being organized in the shops and not in a stuffy hallway mainly used for social purposes, is clearly indicated in this pamphlet.

Many other questions, such as systematic educational work, the struggle against the opposition bourgeois and socialist organizations, anti-military activity, the future organizational questions, unemployed members and so on are dealt with in this lucid pamphlet of instruction and experiences in shop nuclei organizations. The historical necessity of shop nuclei has been fully treated in previous literature. Practical experiences in every form of Communist activity have demonstrated the superiority of a party and league organized in the shops over the social democratic (territorial) form of organization which still prevails in most parties and leagues.

The Workers (Communist) Party and the Young Workers League are in process of organizing shop nuclei. That is the first step; the second step, and it must follow quickly thereafter, is the complete organization of the Workers (Communist) Party and the Young Workers League into shop nuclei. Such a party will give an enormous impetus to revolutionary activity and organization. Such a party, a party of shop nuclei, means a party that has mass contact and mass influence. Such a party insures a successful Communist revolution. The road from isolation to the masses lies in the organization of shop nuclei.

Every party and league member should read this pamphlet issued by the Young Communist International and distributed in America through the Young Workers League, 1113 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago. The pamphlet sells at 15 cents retail.

* Instructions on the Building Up of Shop Nuclei, and their Practical Work as the Basic Units, published by the E. C. of the Y. C. I.