

Workers (Communist) Party

The Reorganization Goes Forward

By MARTIN ABERN.

AS weeks pass by judgment of the party activity, based on shop and street nuclei, becomes clearer and more mature. In District No. 8, particularly as affecting the larger centers, such as Chicago, South Bend and others, we can declare, the reorganization was no mistake; despite the many yet-existing difficulties and problems, the shop and street nuclei do far more and better work than the old territorial units.

Improvement is to be noted in both the street and shop nuclei in recent weeks; it is more marked in the street nuclei, since the organization conference stressed the idea and necessity of street nuclei carrying out most of their work in the shops.

AS to the shop nuclei, many of them of them in this district are small nuclei in small shops. There are small nuclei in large shops of thousands of workers. There are some fairly large nuclei, having 20, 25 and 35 members in large manufacturing, electric, automobile concerns. The large shop nuclei naturally function the best. We shall have to consider the advisability here and there of liquidating shop nuclei of only three members in very small shops, where the possibility of development is limited. Small shop units in large shops must be continued and developed.

Splendid Shop Bulletins Issued.

IN the larger shop nuclei where shop bulletins have been issued the interest, enthusiasm and activity of the members has been decidedly marked. New recruits and added activity is certain. The Studebaker shop nuclei of South Bend, Indiana, has recently issued a bulletin, The Studebaker Worker, perhaps the best of the shop bulletins that have yet appeared. Three thousand copies were distributed, the story of which has been recently printed. The nucleus has 35 members.

The Young Workers' League group in the International Harvester concern, employing over 10,000 workers at miserable wages and working conditions, has issued two numbers of its shop bulletin. The party shop nucleus of 20 members has aided in each case in the distribution. One thousand copies of each were distributed. When the shop bulletin of the league was read to the party nucleus, the members were very enthusiastic, offered numerous suggestions for the future and declared they would try to collect material for a party bulletin.

TO speak further of the party Harvester nucleus, it is composed of comrades not able to speak English except with difficulty. It was hard to get the comrades to speak of shop conditions. But at a particular meeting we got one comrade to explain working conditions. He was rapidly followed by four others on different phases of the International Harvester exploitation. The comrades then stated they would write this material

up for worker correspondents' stories either in The DAILY WORKER or the language press, preparatory to the issuance of a wage leaflet and a shop bulletin. Attendance has increased. The comrades distribute the foreign-born leaflets, a bundle regularly of the Negro Champion, dispose of tickets in the shops, etc.

Only one issue of The Hot Ingot, the shop bulletin in the Gary, Ind., steels mills, has come out. The comrades are preparing for the issuance of another. Here the comrades have to go up against an expert company stool-pigeon system.

Other shop nuclei have not yet published shop bulletins. In the larger ones of these leaflets, The DAILY WORKER, other literature and tickets have been sold and distributed. It might be pointed out that in the three above-mentioned shops where bulletins have been published the shops and mills are unorganized.

Trade Union Activity Stressed.

IN the nuclei, both shop and street, the attendance has yet to be materially increased. Yet the fact that many street nuclei in Chicago, for example, have been able to develop an attendance of 75-80 per cent shows that the other nuclei, by systematic effort to reach the delinquent members, can get similar results. As explained at other times, the attendance is greater already than in the old units. Dues payments are showing gradual but regular increases monthly. Lack of functionaries is still a cry. This is being but slowly remedied thru drawing in more of the language speaking comrades into the general work. Too many of the comrades still function mainly in the language fractions. This is, of course, necessary party work, but these comrades still need to be impressed that attendance and activity in addition in the regular party unit, the nucleus, is mandatory and will be insisted upon.

Trade union activity has its ups and downs, but there can be no doubt that the party organization drive for every member to join a union and to build the trade union fractions is having its effect generally in trade union work. The check-up and follow-up of inactive members is improved. If it were possible; that is, if, among other things, the fraction secretaries would report attendance at the fraction and union meetings to the party office it would be shown that the union membership has increased and more members in the various unions attend meetings. There are isolated instances, it is true, to the contrary. Yet much is to be looked for in improvement of work in this field.

THE shop and street nuclei are beginning to take up systematically the reports on conditions in the shops and mills and to lay out a program therefor. Recent reports printed in The DAILY WORKER on some of the shop nuclei in southern and central Illinois show that mining conditions, shop difficulties, union issues, defense, foreign-born campaign, DAILY WORKER and the language press are being considered. In this section of the party the members have to go up against the terror of the Farrington machine, in particular, as well as the occasional stupidities of the ku klux

klan. The right to carry on International Labor Defense work has even to be fought for.

Political discussions, educational talks, either in the nuclei, sub-section or section meetings have increased. But before the agitprop committees are still heavy tasks of an elemental character.

Of the development of closer relations between the party and league from top to bottom not much can be said, except in the improved connections between the shop nuclei of the league and party in the same shops. This is general thruout the district. The party is trying to aid the situation.

ORGANIZATION of the party on a correct Communist basis does not in itself solve our problems. It will bring no millenium, nor can be expected to. But our now correct form of organization, linked up with correct policy and willingness of the party membership to work, to achieve contact, and influence with the workers everywhere is bringing results. Nothing can gainsay these facts.



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