

Can the Workers Write for Our Press?

The Question of Worker Correspondents and Shop Bulletins.

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Article II.

IN yesterday's article, we took up the question of why a staff of Worker Correspondents must be developed and of what matters the Worker Correspondents shall write. The following are some suggestions of ways to get our comrades from the shops, mills and fields to write, and to lay a basis for the issuance and distribution of shop bulletins by the shop nuclei.

1. In those cities where Worker Correspondents' classes have been already established, every shop and street nucleus shall send at least one, or more, comrade to attend the class. New York and Chicago classes are proving successful.

Special Classes for Worker Correspondents.

2. If a special class has not been arranged, a capable comrade should be selected in each nucleus or subsection, who can select a number of subjects on which to write. Divide these subjects among the nucleus members with insistence that they write a story, no matter how short, and bring it to the next nucleus meeting. The articles can then be read, and corrections, if necessary, made. The selection and assignment of subjects to members has often proved a good method to get hesitating comrades to write. These articles can be written in either English or the

language with which the comrade is most familiar. The stories written in a foreign language can be translated freely and used in either or both the English or foreign language press.

Let's Have Shop Talks.

3. It takes, sometimes, lots of convincing to make comrades feel that they can write good stuff for The DAILY WORKER or shop bulletins. Like Missourians, they want to be shown why and how. Why not try the following:

Every shop and street nucleus should have regularly on its order of business the matters of shop talks. At least two comrades shall report for about five minutes each to the nucleus on conditions of work in their shop, etc. In many nuclei these reports have proved interesting and stimulating. It gets the comrades accustomed to taking the floor. But for the purpose of Worker Correspondents, this should be done.

As the comrade makes his shop talk, another selected comrade should take down the talk in either shorthand or longhand. When the comrade is thru talking, the speech should be read back to him. To his probable surprise, he will find that what he has said would make a good Worker Correspondent story for The DAILY WORKER or for a shop bulletin. Comrades should make efforts to write their stories as they would tell them if speaking to another.

What Should be in the Shop Bulletin?

Now for the shop bulletin. A developed system of Worker Correspondents lays a good basis for a live, snappy shop bulletin. Of what shall the shop bulletin consist? Primarily of the same kind of material as mentioned hitherto; the material used in the Worker Correspondents' columns—shop conditions and problems. Of course, the shop bulletin, as a party organ in the shops, must be political in its content and outlook. Nevertheless, that does not mean that comrades shall write long screeds of alleged Marxism. A short editorial comment, for example; on one of the shop stories written by a comrade; a few lines on the International Labor Defense and its relation to the working class movement, citing some special case, such as the Zeigler case. Some lines explaining and advertising The DAILY WORKER and party publications. Short outlines of the party campaigns, such as the campaign for the formation of councils for the protection of the foreign-born, for a labor party. Mention the need of union organization, etc. Further, all of this material should be written by the workers themselves, not by one or two comrades called the editorial board. This editorial board should mainly concern itself with the technic and make-up of the bulletin.

As for financing the shop bulletin,

there is the method of the raffle. In Detroit, the comrades recently raised \$330.00 to purchase a multigraph for shop bulletin publications. Collections from the comrades, to begin with, a small assessment or sustaining fund, sale of papers, which will develop among the workers after a couple of issues are out, etc. Efforts should be made by the party city organizations collectively to purchase a multigraph which would ensure publication of shop bulletins at an approximate cost of \$1.00 per thousand copies.

Regarding distribution, that is a matter of each local situation. Distribution can be before the factory gates, by members of street nuclei, called upon to aid the shop nuclei; thru secret distribution by the shop nuclei members themselves, in the lockers, toilets, pasting on walls, and, if necessary, by getting the shop bulletin to the workers in their homes direct. Comrades can be specially selected for the latter method, that is, getting comrades to visit the homes of workers with whom they are pretty friendly as a result of close working contact in the shop.

Experience will show to the party members many more ways and means to become Worker Correspondents, to publish and distribute the shop bulletins in the shops and factories, but the above may prove helpful. Comrades should write in of their experiences and make suggestions.