

Workers (Communist) Party

The National Organizational Conference of the Workers (Communist) Party

By MARTIN ABERN.

The national organizational conference of the Workers (Communist) Party, at which every district organizer and nearly all language bureau secretaries were present, concluded its three-day session on Feb. 22 in Chicago. The organization conference was perhaps the most successful and fruitful gathering of leading comrades and functionaries ever held in the history of the party.

The reporters for the central executive committee were: 1. General Political Report; Labor Party and Defense of Foreign-Born Campaigns—Jay Lovestone. 2. Communist International Organization Conference, Shop and Street Nuclei, Fractions, Auxiliaries—Martin Abern. 3. Trade Union Work—Jack Johnstone. 4. DAILY WORKER—M. Loeb. 5. Agitprop and Negro Work—John Ballam. 6. Y. W. L.—S. Darcy.

At this conference, there were discussed at length, among other things, the ways and means to carry out the campaign for the protection of foreign-born, for a labor party. Elaborate reports on the organization and activation of the shop and street nuclei were outlined by the district organizers. It was manifest that the nuclei organization had taken hold strongly among the membership and was already producing increased mass activity. Attendance had increased appreciably; trade union attendance and activity had improved; literature, leaflets, pamphlets, The DAILY WORKER, tickets for mass affairs, such as the Lenin memorial meetings, were being disposed of more systematically in the shops and factories; where Workers' Schools had been established, the comrades were entering the various classes, and the foreign-born comrades especially the English classes. The shop nuclei were finding it simpler to engage more effectively in the mass struggles, such as strikes, and endeavoring to take part and leadership in the solution of the daily problems of the workers in the shops, such as wages, working conditions. Labor defense activity in the shops was noticeable. Improvement of party life among the workers was clear.

Nevertheless there remain great difficulties: the language problem, attendance at the nuclei meetings, getting every member into the work, etc.

Organization and Functioning of Executive Committees.

Stress was laid on functioning nuclei and sub-section executive committees particularly as means of activating the nuclei with life, and to eliminate from the shop and street nuclei meetings the routine matters; to have at the nuclei meetings actual reports of activities, such as trade union reports, shop activity, defense work, concrete plans of work. The executive committees shall be re-

sponsible for bringing in well thought out programs of work and proposals.

It was also pointed out that we must develop party democracy through democratic centralism by the close contact of the functionaries with the membership and by the nuclei discussing and acting on party problems. A system of functionary gatherings cannot be substituted for discussion in the nuclei and conferences of responsible delegates from the nuclei. Functionary conferences have no power to decide any question. All decisions must be decided at conferences of delegates.

Many organizers pointed out the tendency, a dangerous one, of language and union fractions to take up and decide upon party problems, to act as basic party units. In this connection, there was a thorough discussion on the role of the language fractions in the fraternal organizations, workers' clubs, etc.; the need of systematically "bringing workers' politics" into these non-partisan organizations, which are actually now systematically permeated with capitalist politics and ideas by the bourgeoisie. The energetic pushing of the foreign-born protection campaign, spread of literature, working class speakers, support of the International Labor Defense, etc., was especially stressed as work of the party language fractions in these organizations.

In connection with defense, it was reported that the International Labor Defense organization was handling the Zeigler, Pittsburgh, California, and Bimba cases. Its work demands the support of the entire party membership both financially, and aid organizationally by joining the I. L. D. as individual members and getting the workers everywhere to join this mass non-partisan organization which defends all class war prisoners.

Foreign-Born Campaign Draws Response.

The campaign for the protection of the foreign-born, as to its political importance and organizational methods to draw in the masses of the American-born workers, the trade unions, liberal elements, as well as the mass of foreign-born workers directly affected by the registration, fingerprinting, deportation laws, were discussed and the importance of energetic work in this campaign stressed.

Trade Union Campaigns.

The central executive committee of the party is now conducting an energetic campaign to draw every eligible party member into a union and to build the party fractions in the unions, as a basis and means of building a broad left wing T. U. E. L. movement in the trade unions. Organizers reported on results to date and meetings of members not yet in unions, being called.

In the trade union report, the work in the unions to date, particularly in the I. L. G. W., the Machin-

ists, the Furriers, A. C. W., the textile industry and the present strike in Passaic, the steel industry, automobile industry was mainly discussed. Ultra-left tendencies were noted, and particularly dangerous right tendencies, as in the I. L. G. W. Concrete methods, applying to the situation in the various districts, for developing the campaign for a united labor ticket in 1926, for a labor party, were touched upon in the approach to the labor unions, and central labor councils, on these questions, and also the question of trade union unity.

Daily Worker, Youth, Negro, Agitprop Receive Consideration.

The continued sub-drive for The DAILY WORKER, its financial situation, results since party reorganization, the issuance of more party literature, particularly cheap pamphlets, more of the Little Red Library, etc., came up under The DAILY WORKER report.

Need of party aid to establish the Young Worker (Communist) League on a stronger footing were put forward on the Y. W. L. report. The recent party inner struggle had affected the Y. W. L. somewhat adversely; more important, tho, large numbers of the Y. W. L. were now active in the party and the Y. W. L. machinery had been stripped nearly bare of the most active elements. The party must now aid the league in every city.

Agitprop work, in relation to the foreign-born campaign, educational work in the party, the establishment of more party schools and classes, mass agitprop activity, work among the Negroes, the drive to raise \$20,000 to push forward more swiftly the party campaigns were discussed under the agitprop report. Negro work is being pushed and effort made to secure organizational results.

Briefly, on major aspects of the conference, on the trade union work, there was emphasized the need of basing our activity on the simplest of issues, such as wages, working conditions, unionization, and use these in the development of broader issues, like labor party, trade union unity, amalgamation.

The foreign-born campaigns presented itself also a means of demonstrating to the workers the oppression and suppression of working class standards of life and political rights; the need of a drive to organize the unorganized into the unions; of achieving a closer unity and solidarity between the American and foreign-born workers against capitalism and joining thereby in common struggle against the bills now before congress; of working for an independent political movement of the workers to prevent the passage of such anti-working class laws. This campaign permits of mobilizing a vast mass movement of protest against capitalist aggression.

In the campaign for a united labor ticket for 1926 and for a labor party,

NOTICE!

Chicago Daily Worker and Literature Agents

There will be a meeting of Daily Worker and Literature Agents at the district office, 19 S. Lincoln Street, Saturday, Feb. 27, 3 p. m. sharp.

All Daily Worker and Literature Agents MUST be there. Please do not be late—be ON TIME.

Sam Hammersmark,
City Agent.

It was clear that the first steps were agitation, achieving political unity on a local scale, taking extreme care to prevent the splitting of labor tickets and movements; that, in other words, the development of the movement for a mass party of the workers is not a single step or action, but involves a long period and series of steps, each one of which aids in forwarding the political maturity of the workers and strengthening its class basis. The labor unions, it was emphasized, must be the main organizational basis of this movement.

Party on Forward March.

The conference went thru three days of discussions on party campaigns in an atmosphere free from fractional feelings and differences. This conference had as its objective a review and the mobilization of the party to carry out these campaigns most effectively. Practical problems on every phase of party work from the organizational angle, were to be set forward for discussion and solution. This was done.

Injection of fractional issues while the organizational conference was considering practical problems for conducting the party work would have fallen flat. The proceedings were handled in a healthy constructive manner. The district organizers contributed much to one another and particularly to the central by presenting concrete situations for solution.

Such conferences as this one, indicate that the party is on the forward march; that the bitterness of the past party struggles has by no means destroyed the capacity or the willingness of the entire party to carry out the party work among the masses as one man, with the full energies and resources of every comrade. The inner party struggles have only contributed, as they must, to the swifter Bolshevization of the party, to better conceptions of ways to carry out the party work.

Our party is a part of the class struggle; the leader of the masses of workers and farmers in this struggle; otherwise it would not be a Communist Party. Our disputes have arisen out of differences as to the best means to conduct this struggle to the best advantage of the party and the working class. New events and new problems continually face us. The class struggle always leaves its imprint on us and our work. The many problems of the working class and the necessity of the party leading in the solution of these problems are driving the party toward the development of a unified leadership and a uniform theory and practice, the basis of party unity.

Growth of Consistent, Uniform Theory and Practice of Party.

The organization conference just held demonstrates in a concrete way how the reorganization party is reacting to the issues and problems of the working masses. There has been practical discussion of experiences; common work has been laid out; the district organizers, the language secretaries, the party membership are proceeding to carry out the party program of work among the masses. This organization conference is a hot reply to those outside of the party who hope for party destruction. Their foolish belief that internal struggles would destroy the Communist Party, the leader of the working class, is being rapidly dissipated. The right wing danger in the party is not by any means averted, but the Communist heart of the party masses is strong. The help of the Communist International, the internal growth and change of the party as an organism, the development of the class struggle in America proving stronger than the wishes or plans of individuals or groups having other aims or interests than the party and the masses.

Thru all forms of these struggles, the party is gradually developing a uniform, consistent, Marxist-Leninist attitude and leadership toward all problems facing the party. Conferences, such as the one held, only confirm and develop such uniformity.

The organization conference reports and discussion are being transcribed, and abbreviated, yet quite adequate reports will be printed shortly in The DAILY WORKER and language press. These should prove of immediate practical value to the membership.

RED REVEL

