

On the Road to Mass Activity

By MARTIN ABERN.

AT the fourth Communist International congress, Lenin reported that the theses on organization were accepted, but not understood, except by the Russians.

In America the question and importance of the right form of organization was not fully understood for a long time, and not even now. Otherwise the federation form of organization might have disappeared long ago. It is evident that to reach the workers to carry on mass activity, requires an organization which is in and part of the workers. That can be only in the shops, particularly, in the factory nuclei.

The Workers (Communist) Party is now pushing swiftly actual reorgan-

ization on the shop and street nuclei basis. There has been some confusion in the midst of reorganization. The role of the workers' clubs, for instance, has been confused with the party unit, the street or shop nucleus. There is a tendency, for instance, to continue to hold affairs, entertainments, etc. under the auspices of the language branches of the Workers (Communist) Party, that is, as regular party units. The comrades are not fully clear that party language units do not exist and that language activity is conducted, in part, thru the workers' clubs, fraternal societies, etc. This does not exclude affairs and so forth organized thru party language fractions.

Workers clubs are the nonpartisan organizations of non-party and party

members in which party members form a fraction to influence with Communist views the non-party members. **Work Among Foreign-born to Increase Thru Nuclei!**

THEN, too, there has also been mingled with confusion some fear on the part of the federations, that with the abolition of language units, mass contact with and influence over the foreign-born workers in industry would be broken. Quite the contrary, the fusion of all language and English (American) members into either shop or street nuclei has for the first time brot even the party members together. The shop cements them closely with the other workers on common ties of daily struggle issues. The basis is laid for discussion on general and specific problems of the American working class.

In the language units the problems of each foreign group, pertaining for the most part or very often, to the old country, were paramount. Thru the workers' clubs, however, thru activity of the party language fractions in fraternal bodies, with party direction, the important work, therein such as labor defense, protection of foreign-born, etc. in the fraternal bodies is not only preserved, but increased.

IN the reorganization there has entered also the factor of skepticism. "It won't work; the membership itself is against it," was the forbidding wail of some comrades prior to actual steps toward shop and street nuclei reorganization.

Comrades, what does all this skepticism, this doubt and fear, both of the reorganization itself and in the membership to respond, mean politically? This is not mere loose talk. This skepticism is one of the roots of a Loreist ideology. This is the "can't be done" view, "the workers are not ready, the time is not ripe" attitude. This is a lack of belief in the party membership, as well as the mass of workers, to do what is required of them.

Opposition and Skepticism Toward Shop Nuclei Disappearing Swiftly.

SO far as the reorganization is concerned, the bucket of skepticism has been tipped over and found to be empty of good drinking water. It was only hot air, trying to be cold water, on a live body.

The city of Chicago is completely reorganized—90 per cent of the dues paying membership stayed. So also with Milwaukee, South Bend, Gary, Zeigler, Springfield,—the entire district in fact. The reorganization results in the other districts, New York, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Detroit, are producing like results.

Organization on an insolated scale, at the beginning of the campaign for shop organization, worked both good and bad. When successful, it convinced the comrades; where not so successful, the comrades were doubtful of the shop and street nuclei plan. However, neither was the best test. Organization on a large broad scale is more convincing, as is being shown, even at this early period. The organ-

ization theses of Lenin are beginning to be understood in the United States of America!

PRACTICAL phases of the success of the reorganization are to be noted. The language restrictions and barriers have been broken. The minds of the comrades have been turned away from purely internal party or language problems toward the factories, shops and mills. A better organization base for mass contact and work is laid. Connections with the party units are more easily maintained. More members enter with enthusiasm into party life.

Undoubtedly an impetus will be given The DAILY WORKER. Language members, participating now in the English language in party work, will subscribe to The DAILY WORKER or read it. Chicago reports this already manifesting itself. The nuclei, and this is taking place now, will order The DAILY WORKER bundles to be sent to factory workers or distributed at or in the factories.

THE membership, especially with the desire for theoretical training and enlightenment growing, with schools and educational classes of all kinds increasing, will purchase party pamphlets, literature, Workres Monthlies, etc. in greater numbers, both for themselves and outsiders. Nuclei will insist on each member purchasing a minimum amount of literature each month which the party issues. Agitation and propaganda will take on a renewed energy.

With a proper industrial registration, a real drive for trade union activity and for reorganization of the nonunion party members becomes possible. Organization meetings, trade by trade, industry by industry—this is possible and will be done.

Both thru the shop and street nuclei a real set of party workers' correspondents for The DAILY WORKER can be set up, and, at the same time, draw non-party workers into the role of workers' correspondents,—a most important way of developing their class consciousness.

Build a Leadership in Every Shop.

IN each shop nucleus a miniature DAILY WORKER, a Shop Bulletin, must be issued, relating to the problems in the shops, hearing from the workers, giving the Communist solution to the workers' problems. The politicalization of the nucleus will be slow but certain. These are but some of the few things which the Communist International theses on reorganization can and are beginning to mean in concrete situations and work.

Thru the shop nuclei, the party lays a groundwork for forming the real unchallenged leader of the masses in their daily, practical bread and butter struggles and in the general revolutionary struggle for political power by the working class. The nuclei, street and shop, are technically superior, flexible, responsive, alert, awake to the struggles and problems of the American labor movement.

Face to the factories
Every shop a Communist stronghold!

What Is the Agitprop Department?

THE AGITPROP DEPARTMENT is entirely new to our party both in its form and functions. It is true that our party has always had its "educational department" which, to a certain extent, supervised and carried out our internal propaganda work. But not only was there really no systematic guidance and direction for our work of external agitation; there was no connection, external or internal, between our agitation and our propaganda activities. It was only with the recent establishment of the agitprop department of the central executive committee and with the gradual development of an agitprop apparatus thruout the party that a structure co-ordinating upon a systematic basis all the propaganda and agitation work of the party in whatever field and for whatever purpose was created.

Because of the comparative newness of the very conception of an agitprop department in our party, there still exists some confusion as to the nature and tasks of this department, its functions, structure, etc. In order to help liquidate this confusion the national agitprop is publishing a translation of an article appearing in the special supplement to the Parteiarbeiter for November, 1925. (The Parteiarbeiter is the functionaries' paper of the German Communist Party). We are sure that the following brief explanation of agitprop work will be of great value to many comrades.

NATIONAL AGITPROP DEPARTMENT.

THE agitprop department is the organ that directs upon a uniform basis the entire agitation and propaganda work of the party, in all its forms and on all fields of work. It is not a "special" or "limited" department in the bad sense. On the contrary, its field of work extends to all departments; in co-operation with these department it elaborates the methods and forms of agitation and propaganda.

The tasks of the agitprop can be classed under two main heads:

(a) Agitation.

The entire external agitation work (verbal, written, pictorial, etc.) of the party (of all its organs, of the fractions, of the nuclei, local groups, districts, etc.) Here belongs the regular everyday work of winning members in the factories, unions, etc., at meetings, at demonstrations, the carrying out of campaigns (including election campaigns), campaigns for the party press, etc.

(b) Propaganda.

The entire party educational work, the activity in study circles, groups, courses, party schools, issuance of

orated and determined by the agitprop.

From this it follows:

1.—Agitprop may be considered a "specialty" in questions of forms and methods of agitation and propaganda.

2.—Agitprop reaches all "special" departments in that the bearers of our agitation and the comrades whom we must educate work and carry on their activities in the nuclei and fractions.

The agitprop apparatus built within the party organization must co-operate closely with all party organs and see to it that the entire agitation and propaganda activities of the party assume such forms as to promise the greatest success; it must collect all experiences and impart them to the party as a whole.

The execution of this work demands that in the districts, sub-districts, local organizations, etc., committees for agitprop work must be established and active agitprop directors start functioning in the nuclei.

He will like it! Give your union brother a sub to The DAILY WORKER.