

Attendance at Nuclei Meetings

By Martin Abern

MANY districts and virtually all of the large cities are now organized on the shop and street nuclei basis. They are now faced with the task of getting the nuclei to carry out the party program of work. Everywhere the registration of the members has been high. This is encouraging. Nevertheless, every district has found that just good mechanical reorganization is not enough to start the party on the upward grade in conducting party work. It was to be expected that there would be difficulties. There are the language problems and inexperience in the work.

But there is an elemental matter, upon which depends the correct solution of many others. That is the question of the attendance at the shop and street nuclei meetings. This is of prime political importance. Until solved, it will result in deep growing difficulties for our party. Attendance at the meetings immediately after the reorganization was low, reports show sometimes only 30%.

This was caused by many reasons. Some comrades evidently believed there was a period of transition between the period of shop nuclei organization and beginning to function in them: this was a vacation period. Many language comrades no doubt hesitated at the beginning, to attend, because of a feeling of inability to function effectively. Some comrades were busy at important work; others were merely indifferent.

Attendance at Nuclei Meetings a Vital Political Problem.

Experience of the nuclei nationally show that this weakness of attendance is remedying itself gradually and

sometimes swiftly. The increase is by 2's, 3's and 5's in the nuclei in the districts where reorganization has been completed for some time. The attendance has risen to 50% and 75% of the membership rolls and in many cases is already higher than in the old form of territorial organization. Furthermore, where the attendance has increased to normal and above, the nuclei report an enthusiasm and spurt in activity, such as, union work, Daily Worker and literature distribution, education, etc. The shop nuclei have from the beginning done better, than the street nuclei.

However, this problem of attendance has been by no means solved. To continue or to assume the continuance of the present situation would involve at once a strong financial crisis in the party, already manifested. This would certainly impair carrying out the wide program of activity outlined by the C. E. C. and result in an inability of the party effectively to conduct its work. To be unable, because of a mass of inactive party members, to carry on the campaigns for the defense and recognition of Soviet Russia, for protection of the foreign-born, labor party campaign, etc., would mean a different course in the political life of our party, and would affect our responsibilities and influence among the masses.

Leninism Demands Every Member Active in Party Work.

The presumably simply problem, of full attendance and individual activity of every member in party work, resolves itself into a condition involving the very political life of the party. Attendance at the meetings, drawing every member of the party into some kind of responsible work, simple or complex, must be demanded. This very question of attendance at the meetings and individual responsibility was a root problem in the great struggle finally developing into a split in the Russian party at the London congress in 1903 between the Bolsheviks led by Lenin and the mensheviks, led by Martov. On the one hand, Martov proposed that the party constitution provide that membership shall include all those who declared their willingness to support the party.

Lenin on the other hand proposed that party membership shall be limited to those who not only support the party, but who are individually engaged in party work.

The right wing, the supporters of Lore, everywhere will take great comfort, if our party does not solve this question, and will feel that a blow has been struck at the reorganization.

However, as stated before, the party membership is rallying and proceeding to give life to the reorganization. In the meanwhile, some additional measures should be taken to help as follows:

1. Every language paper should, carry articles, impressing the language comrades with the necessity to attend and confidence in their ability to function effectively in the shop and street nuclei.

2. Every shop nucleus and street nucleus should elect a permanent committee for the mobilization of the members to attend the nuclei meetings. These committees of action

should divide the list of the non-attendants and inactive members among themselves and be responsible to go after these lax comrades, until they draw each and everyone into party life.

Every party member must be put to the task and strike a blow for effective party organization and functioning. Now, especially in this period of acceleration of the bolshevization of the Workers (Communist) Party, is the time to make of each party member, as Lenin insisted, not only one who supports the party, but is individually engaged in party work.

(Another Article Tomorrow.)

ENROLLMENT IN THE CHICAGO WORKERS' SCHOOL NOW GOING ON

Every day is enrollment day for the Chicago Workers' School. Five comrades from Shop Nucleus 20 have enrolled for the class in English. Several comrades have enrolled for the class in historical materialism. The class in trade union organization and tactics has already a good foundation.

Each student of the school during the last term is expected to enroll immediately for the second term Feb. 8th to April 2nd, and to act as an agent to secure new enrollments. The workers' School looks forward to a successful enrollment, because of the large number of comrades who attended its sessions, and were well satisfied.

This is a school conducted by the Workers Party, District 8, and it is the duty of every party member to aid in the enrollment drive. There are only ten days left, which calls for immediate response. We wish to remind the comrades that while it is a party school, it aims to satisfy the educational needs of all workers.

The enrollment drive should be carried on in every factory, union, fraternal organization, co-operative, or other working class organization. Every party member should give out the school folder in any organization he is a member of, and secure actual enrollments. If we can get a live bunch of enrollment agents busily at work for the next ten days, we can get a large enrollment. Get a list of workers, addresses, and the courses they select; and bring it in to the School Office at 19 S. Lincoln St., with the enrollment fee, if possible. Folders can be had at 19 E. Lincoln St.

Class Committees meet.

On Monday evening, Jan. 25th, the

class committees and instructors of the Chicago Workers' School met at the school building. All of the instructors were there, but the class committees were not well represented.

The main questions discussed were enrollment for the coming term; and review of the past term. Comrades Swabeck and Simons explained the steps taken to ensure a large enrollment. As to the past term, the class representatives gave their reactions to the courses, and suggested improvements.

The instructors present were: Swabeck, Hathaway, Engdahl, Simons, Gomez, Shachtman, Dolsen, Darcy, Wirkkula. Class committees: Schechter, Kaplan, Lohse, Cohen, Amper.

Action was taken to make the research class an arm of District 8, in carrying out the party campaign. Substitutes are to be arranged for, in case instructors are called out of town.

This was the first meeting of class instructors and committees during the present term. It will be followed up regularly to discuss important educational questions, as outlines, text books, method of teaching, kind of courses, requirements of students, etc.

Pittsburgh Workers Attention!

Come, Saturday night, Jan. 30, at 8 p. m. to the International Socialist Lyceum, 805 James St., N. S. and enjoy the Radio Tea Party given by the International Labor Defense of Pittsburgh and I. W. W. This affair is arranged for the purpose of the members of both groups getting acquainted and enjoying a pleasant evening. Admission is free and also the eats so come and enjoy the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Domovich
announce
the engagement and
marriage
of
their daughter
Katherine Domovich, Gary
to
Pando Markoff, Gary

They will be married Saturday, January 30, 1926

Congratulations from the Bulgarian Progressive Club of Gary, Indiana.