

Language Fractions and Work in the Fraternal Societies

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COMMUNIST fractions are being formed in all language fraternal organizations, workers' clubs, cultural societies, sport clubs, etc. What is the purpose of the Communist fractions in them? Essentially, the same work must be performed in them by our Party members and fractions as our fractions perform in the labor unions, central labor councils. Naturally, the organizations and ideas prevailing within these language fraternal bodies is somewhat different in form than in the unions, but the problem before us is basically common.

In all these organizations our party members, thru the fractions, aim to develop a Communist ideology among the membership. That is not so easy done as said. These organizations are strongly rooted with the idea of "no politics" in their sick and death benefit, social, etc., organizations. Actually, we know that they are sore infested with capitalist ideas and methods; a mixture of the European habits and culture plus the crude Babbitt-like prosperity feeling of the American. The fraction must systematically endeavor to smash these "no politics" or capitalist politics ideas in these organizations, and bring "workers' politics" into them.

What shall the Communist fraction and members, concretely, bring into these associations?

1. The fraction shall endeavor to have lectures regularly by representatives from various working class organizations, political parties, unions, co-operatives, etc. Debates should be encouraged; these offer good opportunity for our comrades to discuss the vital issues before the working class. These organizations have speakers often before them.

Circulate the Party Press.

2. No doubt the language press of our Party circulates among these language organizations. But still, systematic effort to increase the circulation among the members is not made by all our language fractions. All the members of the fraction must be held responsible for reaching the membership with subscription appeals. If possible, the organization should be gotten to subscribe for the entire membership, to have the particular paper accepted as the official organ of that organization. Bids for financial assistance for the press can be made. If our comrades are on the Executive Board of these organizations, the work becomes easier. Not only should this work be done for the language press, but this shall also be done as much as possible for the English press, particularly, the DAILY WORKER. In this way the general outlook of the membership can be broadened from the Communist viewpoint. Party literature, language and English, should be sold regularly in these clubs, leaflets distributed. The fraction should have a live literature squad for this purpose.

3. The work being performed by the International Labor Defense on behalf of class war prisoners should interest easily these organizations. The Party gives full support to this non-partisan organization of workers' defense. Hence our fraction must bring I. L. D. and its purposes before the language organizations; endeavor to have the fraternal organization affiliate to the I. L. D., send delegates to the I. L. D. committee and pay its per capita. Further, however, our fraction must try to draw the members of these bodies into the I. L. D. as individuals, active members, and not be satisfied with only organization affiliation. Collections, contributions, etc., can be urged for the defense work.

4. Our fraction must try systematically to bring up general labor and political problems into these bodies. Graphically before the Party language fractions, especially, is the Party campaign for the Protection of the Foreign Born. This arouses wide mass interest, and this campaign can develop a vast mass protest everywhere against the continued encroachments of American capitalism and government against the workers and specifically the foreign-born workers. On this issue our fraction can easily get before the organization with our speakers, leaflets, papers, propaganda, and urge organization of the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born. Thus, too, the Communists demonstrate to the workers in these societies that they are not mere cranks, with pet theories, but are the ones who take the lead in the struggle for defense of the elementary needs of the workers—in this case, protection against aggression, defense of political rights. If our fractions are really on the job in this campaign they should be able to establish themselves firmly in the fraternal organizations and gain respect and confidence of the membership.

5. Then, too, there is the question of a Labor Party in America as first steps taken politically for protection of the workers as a class. This issue must be propagated. Soviet Russia no doubt has a hold among large sections of the members. Our fraction must present the issue, not only of recognition, but also of defense of the first workers' republic.

6. Generally it is the mass of foreign-born workers that are unorganized into the labor unions and who are engaged in the basic industries of America. Organization of the unorganized into the labor unions must be propagated, as means of defense and offense in the struggle for more wages, better working conditions, less

hours of work, and also as a weapon in the struggle against discrimination against foreign-born workers by the government, as exemplified in the pending finger-printing, registration, deportation bills before Congress. Further, the need of closer fraternization and solidarity between the colored and white workers must be propagated. Against any form of race discrimination is one of our slogans.

Organize the Fraction in Every Organization.

7. Our language fractions shall also deal with the special problems of each fraternal organization, in relation to its internal life, relations to the mother country, and so on. Our fractions, with intimate knowledge thereon, must work out a program of activity and policy.

There are, of course, many more problems and issues which the fractions can bring forward, but these will do for a start.

However, further, each fraction shall meet regularly before the meetings of the fraternal organization to lay out its work for the meeting. The fraction shall also elect a steering committee to be responsible on the floor of the meeting for the proper carrying out of the work.

Where there are a number of organizations of the same language, such as Workmen's Circles, the membership meeting of all the Party members in these organizations shall elect an executive committee to be responsible for the carrying out of all the work in these organizations to the proper party executive committee.

Naturally, the fraction shall carry on a campaign, on the basis of the above issues, to draw the most advanced and enlightened elements in these fraternal organizations into the shop and street nuclei of the party and as additions to the party fraction.