

Revolutionary Role of Shop Nuclei

(Extract from remarks delivered to the YCL Plenum by Comrade Brown of the Central Committee of the Communist Party)

Why must the Party and YCL be built on the basis of shop nuclei? For the simple reason that the capitalist system concentrates masses of workers inside factories, where they work collectively; because it is there that the workers are exploited; it is there that, while working collectively, the benefit of their work doesn't go to them but to the owners; because there is the place of struggle between the working class and the capitalist class. Because of the daily struggle because of the continuous exploitation there, the workers become class conscious. The most advanced on the basis of the teachings of Marx understand that the working class because of its position in the capitalist system as the producing class, must become the class that will build up the socialist society.

Only 17 Shop Nuclei

If we analyze the figures submitted to us by Comrade Roberts on the organizational status of the League, we find that at this moment we have 17 shop nuclei. What does this show? It shows that after 7 years, that after the Fifth World Congress held in 1924 which voted the historical resolution on the bolshevization of the sections of the C. I., the reorganization of the Party on the basis of shop nuclei, we in 1932 are practically at the beginning of this work.

This shows how little we have learned from our experiences, how little we have learned from the experiences of the Bolshevik party, how little we understand the role of the workers in industry, the necessity of concentration in the largest factories, how little we understand that through the organization of the Party and the YCL on the basis of shop nuclei, the Party will root itself among the masses in the places of work, now and in times of reaction and illegality.

Certainly many of you who have read something about the history of the Bolshevik Party know the tremendous importance that Comrade Lenin gave to the building of shop nuclei, how patiently and systematically he studied the conditions of the workers in the different factories in Petrograd, his efforts for organizing them on the basis of the factories.

Certainly you know the tremendous role that the workers of Putilov, that the workers of Vibor

(Petrograd), that the workers of the Krasnaya Pressnia Rayon played in the 1905 revolution and in October '17. If you will study Lenin you will find how much importance he gave not only to concentration in the largest factories but to the concentration of the Party in the most industrial cities—and you know the role that Petrograd, Moscow, the Ural territory, played in the victorious October revolution.

Importance of Ford Plant

At the Buro meeting last night, one of the Pittsburgh comrades couldn't understand why this Plenum should give so much importance to a special report about our work in the Ford plant and pro-



posed that we should discuss the situation of the Terminal Mine. Yes! The Terminal Mine is important, but we must understand the outstanding position of the Ford plant not only in this country but in the entire world. We must not forget that in this single plant we have a concentration of 70,000 workers at this moment; that a few weeks ago the Ford workers asking for work were shot down by the police of Ford, the "humanitarian Ford," whose system is made by the 2nd International an example of "socialism." We must not forget the position of the Ford plant in the auto city of Detroit, where hundreds of thousands of workers are concentrated in the other auto plants.

Building and strengthening a shop nucleus in the Ford plant, which will be at the head of the daily struggle, will give a great experience to the whole Party on how to build shop nuclei, on the task of the basic Party unit. It will give a tremendous example to the workers of the thousands and thousands of factories in the United States on how to fight against exploitation.

AIM OF SHOP NUCLEI

What is our aim in building shop

nuclei? Why don't we organize the workers of the factories into street nuclei? Our final aim, and this is known by all, is to take power in this country. Do we believe that it is possible to take power by marching to the capitol in Washington, or to the city hall in Detroit? Certainly not! We must first win the majority of the workers on our side. And we will succeed only through leading the masses in daily struggle. The workers are employed in industry. It is there that we must organize them. It is there that the workers (as I have said before), on the basis of the continuous struggle, become conscious of the necessity of overthrowing this system. It is the workers of the Ford factory, who will one day, under the leadership of the Communist Party and YCL, take over the plant—the capitalist fortress—and make of it a worker's fortress for the building of socialism!

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ARREST YOUTH AT ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION

BERLIN, Germany.—A representative of the Communist Party addressed over a thousand workers who had marched illegally through the streets of the Berlin "City" and massed at the Spittelmarkt. Police came too late to take any effective action. Four young workers, however, were picked out by the police by stool pigeons and arrested.