

Carrying the Education Into the Shops

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

THE reorganization of our party implies the reorganization of all of its departments. The discussions in the agitprop committee of district 2 have revealed that even members of that committee do not understand this fundamental fact. The educational activity of our party must be thoroughly reorganized as to form and content if it is not to remain on the old social-democratic and narrow "monopolistic" basis on which it has hitherto stood.

The gulf between the leadership of our party and the membership must be bridged over. The theoretical fundamentals of Communism must cease to be a monopoly of a little group. Every member of every shop nucleus must be educated simultaneously in the fundamentals of Leninism. The political level of our whole party must be raised.

The Role of the Shop Nucleus.

If the reorganization is not to be a mere mechanical change in structure; if the shop nucleus is not to degenerate into a mere center for "shop talk" in which the level of the discussions will never rise above the discussion of the unsanitary condition of the toilets in the shops and the "toughness" of the foreman (important as these may be); if the shop nucleus is really to become a basic political unit of the party and the center of all discussions from the immediate problems of the shop to the fundamental political problems of the American and world working class;—then our educational activity must not stop at the central school, the library and the study class but must go further along with the rest of the party into the shops.

EVERY big crisis in the American party—and the history of our party has been a series of big crises—has demonstrated the unpleasant fact that great masses of our members, the majority of them, have little or no theoretical basis for their political thinking and do not know how to judge and execute a correct policy. To mention only two such crises—the "goose" crisis and the "labor party" crisis—is sufficient to demonstrate the fact that when a change in objective conditions motivates the adoption of a new policy by our leadership, it is soon faced to face with the powerful passive opposition of a whole majority of our membership and that the party must in each case go thru severe crisis before the new policy is adopted. This can only mean that however low the theoretical level of our leadership may be, even so there is between it and the mass of the membership a considerable gulf in capacity for political thinking and analysis which gulf must be bridged over. I do not mean to say that we must neglect the necessity of further educating a leading group in our party, but of much more fundamental importance is the task of raising the theoretical level of the whole mass of our membership and this must be done, not in a few scattered classes in geographical areas, nor in a central school but precisely in the shops where the mass of our membership is to be found.

Every Member to Be Trained in Fundamentals of Leninism.

THE agitprop department of district 2, therefore, is reorganizing itself in line with the reorganization of the party; and the major emphasis in our educational work for this winter will be placed in the shop nucleus and not in the central school or sections. The plan of district 2 is that of simultaneously educating every member of every shop nucleus, right in his nucleus, in the fundamentals of Leninism.

"But where will you get so many teachers?"

"There will, no doubt, be a hundred or several hundred shop nuclei in the New York area; where has the party one hundred or several hundred directors for shop nucleus political education?" These were objections raised in the school committee to the plan of the reorganization of the educational work and a motion was made

SECTION TWO (PULLMAN AND VICINITY) Attention!

THE section membership meeting of Section No. 2, which takes in the following branches: Italian Dauphin Park, Italian Grand Crossing, Ukrainian Br. No. 2, Polish, Russian, Lithuanian No. 47, South Slav, South Chicago, Ukrainian No. 7, Nucleus No. 1, Nucleus No. 2, Nucleus No. 3, Nucleus No. 4—(all of Pullman), Chicago Heights, Lithuanian Br., will be held Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1925, 8 p. m. at Stancik's Hall, 205 East 115th street, Pullman.

Every member of the Workers (Communist) Party attached to any one of the above named units, must attend this meeting, if he or she wishes to retain membership in the Workers (Communist) Party.

Registration of all members will take place here, for reorganization purposes; and assignments, as to where the various comrades belong, will be made.

It is of the utmost importance to the successful reorganization of the party in the city of Chicago that every member belonging to Section No. 2 attend this meeting.

to delay the execution of this plan until the necessary corps of teachers had been trained. This, of course, is a proposal to delay the effective reorganization of the party for an indefinite period, and to continue the old system which has been in practice ever since we have had any educational work in the American movement and which, up till the present, has naturally failed utterly to produce the necessary corps of teachers to educate the entire mass of our party. It also implies, although it was not so intended, the continuance of our educational activity as a monopoly of a small group of leading comrades for an indefinite period. The comrade who made the objection failed to see that in opposing the reorganization of our educational activity of the shop nucleus basis, he was objectively opposing the reorganization of the party.

ABOUT the middle of November, the work of making every shop nucleus a center of political discussion and of preparing the corps of directors of that political discussion in the Central School will begin simultaneously. Every shop nucleus will select one member, preferably the shop nucleus organizer, to go to the Central School one night every other week and receive instruction in what is known as the "Shop Nucleus Training Course" under Comrade Jack Stachel. The shop nucleus will pay for the course (2.50 for three months) and exact the attendance of its designee.

What the Course Will Offer.

The one chosen by the shop nucleus to take the training course will receive:

1. An outline of each of the lessons that he is to give in his shop nucleus.
2. A lesson on the content of that outline.
3. The instructions on how to present it to his nucleus.
4. Advice on parallel reading.
5. Mimeographed copies of the outline for every member of the nucleus.

During the week succeeding the given lesson, he must give it in the nucleus or lead a discussion on it. Attendance at these discussion meetings will be obligatory and every member of the party shall attend one discussion meeting every second week, throughout the period of this course.

THE title of the course which will be thus given in all of the shop nuclei of the party in and around Greater New York will be "The Fundamentals of Leninism." It goes without saying that in Leninism there is no gulf between theory and practice but they are inextricably interwoven. Thus the course will at once be a study of the theoretical basis and the practical conclusions to be drawn from Leninism. The emphasis will

be on the practical rather than the theoretical side of each subject studied so that the course will be a sort of guide for directing the political discussion of the nuclei and their practical activities. So much will the practical aspect be emphasized that the course may well be entitled "How to be a member of the Communist Party" for that is exactly what the "Fundamentals of Leninism" prepares for, for active conscious membership in the Communist Party, the vanguard of the proletariat. The course will include such fundamental topics as:

What is a party?

What is the role of a Communist Party?

The relation of the party to the masses of the proletariat and to other classes in society, with special reference to class divisions in the U. S.

The structure, organization and functioning of our party.

Communist work in the trade unions.

Participation in election campaigns. Other major campaigns of the party.

Theory and practice of the united front with special reference to American conditions.

Bolshevization.

Lóreism; and other pressing party problems which form the basic content of our political work at present.

It was further objected against this plan that "It is dangerous to permit the discussion of the 'United Front' in the shop nuclei under the direction of untrained, or only partly trained, comrades."

Political Discussions Must Go On in the Nuclei.

This objection again reveals an unconscious objection to the reorganization of the party; the failure to understand that, well or ill, every shop nucleus must discuss the united front and other basic problems and determine its policy through their discussions and decisions and must also carry its policy into effect. Also, underlying this objection, there exists a vague, unconscious feeling that educational activity is the monopoly of that section of our party which gets to the class room and that the directing of such discussion is the monopoly of that small section of our party which is "versed in theory."

It is not a question of how well this discussion in the shop nuclei will be directed but it is, rather, a question of whether this discussion shall be directed at all. Discussion on the united front and other basic political problems of our party must take place

SECTION FIVE (NORTH SIDE TERRITORY) Attention!

THE section membership meeting of Section No. 5, which takes in the following branches: North Side English, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian Terra Cotta, Lakeview Scandinavian, Roumanian, will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, 1925, 8 p. m. at Imperial Hall, 2409 North Halsted street.

Every member of the Workers (Communist) Party attached to any one of the above named units, must attend this meeting, if he or she wishes to retain membership in the Workers (Communist) Party.

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in every shop nucleus if our reorganization is to be Bolshevization in its ideological content as well as in its mere form. The question is not between well-directed and ill-directed discussion but between directed discussion and discussion without any direction at all. The shop nucleus discussion leaders will not be encouraged to regard themselves as "last word authorities" on all of the problems raised during the discussion. On the contrary, they will be required to report on the discussion and the problems raised at the next session of their shop nucleus training course in the Central School and here the discussion of the group leaders and of the instructor will iron out differences, decide disputed points and furnish a sort of "court of appeal" for the decision of differences which arise in the nucleus discussions.

WITH the plan outlined above, the agitprop committee of District 2, hopes to be able, in some small measure, to contribute to "the combining of the propaganda for Leninism with the actual political questions, struggles and organization work of the party" and to contribute to the Bolshevization of our party in ideological political respects as well as in the structural reorganization.

MINNEAPOLIS WAGING AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE IMMEDIATE FUNDS FOR THE DAILY WORKER

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Oct. 23.—Minneapolis is the latest district organization of the party to go over the top and take its place on the fighting line to save The DAILY WORKER.

The national organization department has just received a report from the district office showing that the response to the call of The DAILY WORKER is certainly being met.

In reporting on the progress of the district to mobilize along the lines of the plans laid down by the organization department, Comrade Hathaway, the Minneapolis district organizer, says:

"Immediately upon the receipt of your letter on the needs of The DAILY WORKER, we intensified our drive to raise funds with which to save the paper.

"Minneapolis has just sent in approximately three hundred dollars (\$300.00) the week before as the result of a campaign of visiting all the branches. Upon receipt of your letter, special delivery letters were sent out to all active members to intensify the campaign. This meeting was attended to by 25 members (every one who was notified was present). At this meeting \$68.00 were raised and crews were organized to start out the next morning in a campaign to visit every subscriber to all party papers in the Twin Cities. It snowed all day Sunday, but in spite of that, six teams were out in autos and raised the amount to \$130.00.

"The gang is going out this coming Saturday and Sunday and I think the amount will be raised to another two or three hundred dollars. The

best of it is that a considerable portion of it is being raised from non-party members.

"St. Paul is carrying on a similar campaign. I have no definite report on the amount collected except that one comrade raised \$45.00 last Sunday and several other teams worked all day."

3,000 Spanish Miners Live on Doles After Digging Too Much Coal

(Special to The Daily Worker)

MADRID, Oct. 23.—An over-production of coal has produced a serious unemployment crisis in the Asturias province, with 3,000 miners out of work.

The directory announced that it had decided on an unemployment dole to relieve the suffering, the amount to any miner not to exceed five pesetas a day.