

Comrade Piatnitsky (Org. Department E. C. C. I.):

Comrade Thorez said that I was not right when I said that the **municipal elections** turned out badly because there were no street nuclei. I claim that it was so and will prove it right now. The so-called "work-groups" were formed for the elections, provisional organs for conducting the elections. These organs, however, concerned themselves with Party questions, with the Party discussions. Naturally no Party organisation should be created which has not the right to discuss Party questions or other questions. But these organisations were created especially for the elections. As soon as they were formed, they concerned themselves with Party questions and the elections were neglected. Last year we told the French comrades: whether you need the street nuclei or not, we don't know at this moment; you claim they are not needed, but you should not prevent the other Parties from forming street nuclei or to abolish those that exist. The Central Committee has now itself admitted that it cannot get along without the street nuclei. The resolution was passed to organise them, but it was not carried out.

Now, Comrade Thorez says that they do not agree to form street nuclei unless they are regarded as transitory phenomena. I think that there is no sense in disputing to-day as to whether they are transitory or not. Practice itself will show. I believe that without the street nuclei we will not get along in Europe. I will not state to-day, as I said before, that it is not a transition form. Practice will show.

Which is more important — street or factory nucleus? **The factory nucleus.** Because through the factory nuclei we have the

connection with the masses, with the factory. You saw that here in the U.S.S.R. If we have a group of comrades in the factory who are closely connected with the Party, then it is possible to get the factory in our hands when we seize power. What can the street nucleus do? Can it conquer the houses, the street, no, it cannot. The significance of the factory nucleus is therefore greater. But if a street nucleus is necessary, it will do all the Party work in its territory. It will decide and discuss all the Party questions, and has the right to take part in all the conferences, just like the factory nucleus. There are no members of first and second rank. All Party members have equal rights. Are street nuclei necessary in France? Absolutely. Now the Org. Conference must state that the French Party must form street nuclei. There are various countries and various conditions. But what do we see? In all the countries there are street nuclei and everywhere they have proved their worth, so well, in fact, that everyone runs to the street nuclei. But we do not want that. We want the people to go into the factories.

In America the street nuclei are full-blooded and the factory nuclei very small, and the same applies to Germany. The street nuclei have themselves proved their worth, we cannot get along without them. We must get the worker wherever he is, in the factory, in the street car, or at home. He does not live where he is working, and therefore he must be organised in the street nucleus.

Comrade Thorez is right when he says that the elections turned out pretty badly because the Party organisations functioned badly. All work — not only the election work — will turn out badly if no one is there to conduct it. The nuclei must have an executive which distributes the work of the nucleus.

The nuclei have no plan for their work as yet. But if they had worked well, then their influence on the working class would have been much greater than it is. The nuclei which up till now have had poor executives or virtually no executives at all, have shown that the work in the factory has such opportunities, that even a nucleus which is still working badly, can gain some influence. This will increase when the nucleus gets a good executive.

I ask the French comrades to make good use of our experiences, especially with regard to the street nuclei.