

PARTY . . . ORGANIZER

Upon our Party depends to a large extent the fate of our country today, small as we are. There is no question that the work of our Party has contributed much to make it possible for the United States to meet the tests of the war even as well as we have. If you could think of our country without the Communist Party in this last year, you would have to think of a picture of chaos far beyond anything that we have today. Our Party has been a great factor in preventing in the country a real critical breakdown from the stress of war for which the country was not prepared.

EARL BROWDER

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Funds for Our Party and Our Press

On June 15, our Party is launching its 1943 Press and Fund Drive for \$200,000.

What gives the 1943 Drive its distinctive character?

First, this Drive opens just as the war has reached a decisive turning point. Our fund-raising activity will coincide with the enormously heightened political interest accompanying the opening of a major war effort by the United States. As we call upon the people to come to the aid of the *Daily Worker* and the Communist Party, our appeal will have to have the highest political content. We must couple fund-raising with political analysis. We must make clearer than ever before the essential patriotic character of the Party and our press. Every worker must be made to see that contributing to our Party is a *win-the-war act*, made doubly necessary by the crucial moment in the war.

Second, our Press and Fund Drive comes on the heels of the inspiring Recruiting Drive. Our remarkable success in that Drive should provide the confidence and enthusiasm necessary to carry the Fund Drive through to a successful conclusion in record time. Moreover, *the Recruiting Drive should teach us that there are thousands of non-Party people who are interested in our Party, who are ready to become readers of the Daily Worker and The Worker, and who will help us defray our current deficit.* A campaign to win thousands of new readers now and to approach our friends to support the Party and the Press financially will help to build a new reserve for next winter's recruiting drive, which must greatly surpass the last one.

Fund and Circulation Drive

Third, this Drive, unlike any previous one, is both a *fund and circulation* drive. Increasing the number of readers of our Press goes hand in hand with the collection of funds. Equal emphasis must be placed on *readers and financial sup-*

porters. In the course of this Drive, we can, by increasing the circulation of the press, do away with the necessity of future drives to wipe out deficits.

Subs Equivalent to Contributions

Fourth, expressing the unity of the fund and circulation aspects of the Drive, a distinctive feature is that every one dollar *Worker* "sub" or renewal sold is equivalent to a one-dollar contribution. Branches will be credited, dollar for dollar, for both "subs" and money. Quotas of sections, branches and individuals may be fulfilled either in cash or in subscriptions and renewals, or in a combination of the two. Thus, in adopting its quota, a branch should plan both the proportion it expects to fulfill through contributions and the proportion through renewals and new subscriptions. The branch will receive 30 per cent of the money from the sale of "subs" just as from contributions.

Finally, the Drive this year is for \$50,000 less than last year and \$100,000 less than 1941. In setting our goal, we have taken note of the increased financial burdens which the war has placed upon the people. Our request has been cut to an absolute minimum because we don't want in the slightest degree to interfere with the purchase of war bonds, contributions to Allied War Relief, and other extremely important war obligations which we all are assuming.

The Drive is being launched by the State Committee with the fullest confidence that our membership will take it up and carry it through in the spirit of Victory. Let's make the Press and Fund Drive, like the Recruiting Drive, a milestone in the building of our Party.

It is a distinguishing characteristic of our Party that from top to bottom we have constant contact with the masses, without losing ourselves among the masses, keeping ourselves a distinct political body that raises itself above the masses and takes the masses with it. Our Party is a body of political thinking and method of work among the masses.

—Browder.

Railroaders' Club—Upper Harlem

By Charles Loman

(This branch won top honors in New York State in the recently concluded Recruiting Drive. So far as we know, its achievement was the best in the country. Charles Loman is the branch organizer.)

THE Railroaders' Club of Upper Harlem wound up the Drive with 119 recruits to the Party and 7 to the Y.C.L. The club came within one of tripling its quota of 40, and succeeded in quadrupling its February 1 membership of 37. All of its recruits are Negroes. Forty-nine are women. Eighty-nine are industrial workers, of whom 46 work in some branch of the railroad industry, principally dining car and commissary. Sixteen are wives of railroad workers.

The Railroaders' Club is a concentration branch formed about six years ago for the purpose of concentrating on Negro railroad workers, mainly at the terminals and on the job. At the beginning of the Drive it had 21 railroad workers, principally in dining car.

Years of Concentration Work

The whirlwind success of the Railroaders' Club in the Party Building Drive is based upon years of industrial concentration work and months of community mass work. The development of the Second Front campaign among the workers and in their union, the struggle against discrimination in the railroad industry, the giving of constructive, win-the-war answers to the many new problems which war transportation conditions have brought to the workers, made the Railroaders' Club the political leader of a considerable circle of railroad workers, mainly in dining car, commissary, red caps and freight-handlers. Through the activities and discussions of the club, these Negro workers saw in action that our Party is the *only* political party which places the winning of full

equality for the Negro people as a *precondition* for swift and complete victory.

For two and a half years the branch has held a monthly forum where Party leaders have discussed issues of the day with groups of workers in the light of their special interests and problems. Steady concentration with the *Daily Worker* and *The Worker* at the terminals and in the community resulted in the club's obtaining about 150 subscribers who, with the 200 buyers of *Victory—And After*, constituted the first reserve for recruiting.

Mass Work

In recent months the mass work of the club has included a campaign for the reinstitution of the postponed Railroad Hearings and for re-establishment of the FEPC—the circulation of petitions, the taking of complaints on discrimination, and cooperation with the Negro Labor Victory Committee in holding a mass meeting in the Abyssinia Baptist Church. The club called a community conference on the high cost of living, with special emphasis on reaching the families of railroad men. The club's War Activities Committee carries on regular community services, again especially directed toward railroad workers and their families, helping in citizenship problems, complaints on price violations, employment problems, etc. During the 1942 election campaign the club's contact list of over 200 railroad workers was used as the basis for extensive canvassing, and, in addition, the club "adopted" an election district. It was in this election district where, after the campaign, the Railroaders' Club opened its community center, in cooperation with the 21st A.D. Club of the Party. It is one of the finest club headquarters in New York, whose political and social activities have attracted large numbers of community people, and which serves as a center for railroad men to "drop in," buy literature, and maintain contact with the club, despite the long and irregular schedules on the road which keep many of them from branch meetings.

In approaching the Party Building Drive the Railroaders' Club first made Comrade Browder's letter on the urgency

of Party building as a *war necessity*, the subject of a full branch discussion.

Our Methods

The principal methods used were:

The systematic assignments of lists of subscribers and *Victory—And After* readers to *teams* of comrades (usually one more developed and one newer, less developed comrade), with weekly check-up on results. This was accompanied by visiting industrial comrades and going over contacts to be recruited right on the job. The basis was the subscriber and *Victory—And After* lists, and all these new people are now being asked to renew their subs and to read the *Daily Worker* regularly as the first and best guarantee of their understanding and continued membership.

Family recruiting: Experiences of the club at registration time showed that some of the railroad men who failed to register did so because their families objected to their membership. The club raised the slogan: "Every wife a member." This quickly broadened out as the new recruits themselves caught the spirit of the drive and began to bring in their entire family groups—sometimes as many as five and six. It is felt that the presence of whole family groups in the Party will aid in holding the members, providing a *natural* basis for discussion groups and for activities on a house and family scale. The new members, as soon as recruited, were made to feel that this was *their* club, were consulted on how many they could recruit, and were helped to do so. The *new members* decided on how the \$100 prize money was to be spent! Of the 56 members of the club who recruited one or more, 38 were themselves recruited during the drive.

The Railroaders' Club has organized two new members classes, and is sending a number of comrades to the Harlem Extension Workers School class in Principles of Communism. Home discussion circles will be formed for those who cannot attend regular classes. The club has a Membership Committee of 12, which is rapidly being expanded. Fully half the members of this committee are themselves new members. Four of the new recruits are members of the

Club Executive Committee, one of them doing a splendid job as Press Director.

We Pledge To Keep Them

The Railroaders' Club, recognizing that the real test of the drive comes at registration time, pledges 100% registration of its members in December, and, in addition, the recruiting of another 120 by January, 1944..

Everything we do today we are doing more and more in collaboration with larger numbers of people. But we are the conscious elements in this process. We are the ones who always know what we are doing and where we are going. All the other people who are collaborating with us may even know more about the particular problem than we do, and when they do we must acknowledge this and give them leadership. But where they know about one thing, we know basically about everything.

Therefore, even when we are dealing with people who on a particular question know more than we do, and we support them, we are still stronger than they are, because the moment they get off their particular issue they are weak and we are strong on every question.

—Browder.

The Fourth A. D. Branch, Williamsburg

By J. Sydney

(Like the Railroaders' Club, this branch was awarded one of the \$100 prizes for outstanding work in the Recruiting Drive. The unique fact about this branch is that while it has more than doubled its membership, it has maintained practically 100% dues payments. J. Sydney is the branch organizer.)

WE HAVE been asked many times by what methods we consistently maintain nearly 100% dues payments in our branch. While it had been possible for one or two conscientious comrades to carry on this work with our original membership of forty-five, the doubling of our membership in the Recruiting Drive made it apparent that a political as well as formal reorientation would have to be made in the organization of our membership work.

From the outset, we recognized that keeping our comrades in good standing was a key political function of the branch. Our new membership committee consists of the best political workers and members of the executive committee. Individual dues records have been a barometer of the degree of integration and activization of our comrades. A thorough examination of the few instances where dues have not been paid up through May already reveals the weak spots where more convincing political work is necessary.

Along Geographic Lines

Inasmuch as the branch covers one assembly district and a definite number of election districts, we conceived the work of the membership committee along geographic lines. We plan to tie this in with the coming election campaign. One of the comrades made copies of a map and the entire membership was indicated by dots and initials. During this

process, we learned all our weak spots in the assembly district. The membership list was broken down into groups, corresponding as closely as possible to the election districts. The best political worker in each group was made E.D. Group Captain. Special attention is being given to the personal development of the captains, all of whom have potential leadership ability. The committee is headed by the membership director, leaving the organizer free to help in political problems and other phases of branch work. Discussions are held regularly on the status of the membership. Campaigns are planned to be carried through the E. D. Group Captains to every comrade in the district. Results are judged on the number in each group participating in various activities.

Better Mass Work

It has been argued that involving our most active comrades in so-called "inner-branch" membership work will weaken the effectiveness of the branch in "other" activities. Experience has already shown that this mechanical delineation of activities is a false and un-Marxist conception, for the stronger the organization of the Party, the more effective is its leadership in the struggles of the working class.

The immediate results in our branch bear this out. In the first place, more comrades were involved in the recruiting campaign through discussions with E.D. Group Captains. In the second place, our members began to work with our activities committees. This has already resulted in the outstanding success of a Consumers' Committee, where we have recruited several women, and in the beginnings of a Trade Union Committee. Furthermore, more than half of all of our comrades are attending either our New Members Class, the Workers School or some trade union classes. Our literature sales have gone up in higher proportion than the increase in membership, and meetings have been better attended.

Our Membership Committee deals with comrades as people—not as a mere membership list—but as people who have signified their desire to learn Marxist-Leninist theory and act for the ultimate emancipation of the working class. These

people have personal problems which cannot be submerged by the general problems. The solution of all problems will make a stronger Party. We have set up a Welfare Subcommittee to help in special circumstances. In one case, the brother of a comrade was so impressed with the visits and condolences on the death of their mother that he joined the Party while still in mourning. In another case, a new member who failed to attend a meeting was found to be seriously ill. Just a little understanding and comradeship has tied her more closely to the Party. Regular contact has been established with our comrades in night and swing shifts to meet their needs at their own convenience.

E.D. Captains Stand the Test

If we were to answer the question on how to maintain dues payments, we should say that a quick reaction to membership ills, an honest evaluation of the shortcomings of the branch and of individual comrades, and boldness in adopting new forms of work when these are indicated, all together will solve the problem. We have found the E.D. Group Captain to stand the initial tests.

In our branches, we never give enough attention to our political thinking. In our branches, where Party members come together, there should be besides the routine of business, dues, literature distribution and other matters, all of which is important, there should always be some political discussion. Not always much; sometimes 10, 20 minutes of a simple, clear presentation of the issue of the day. This is sufficient to enliven the discussion and have the result of binding the members closely together. But we should never forget that this is the very lifeblood and essence of our Party, without which we could not exist at all.

—Browder.

Our New Party

By Elizabeth Barker

TODAY one fourth of our members in New York State are comrades who joined the Party in February, March and April of this year. In Upper Harlem the new members outnumber the old. In Nassau, Erie, Southern Tier, Williamsburgh and some Industrial Sections, from 30 to 40 per cent of the members are less than four months in the Party. In composition, as in numbers, our new membership reflects the Party's growing political influence and strong roots among the people. 21.7 per cent of the new members are Negroes, as against 5.2 per cent of our membership in January. The percentage of industrial workers has increased substantially. We have begun to build a *new Party* in New York State!

Whether or not this great beginning will become a permanent gain and a base for further growth depends upon what we do *now*, in the immediate weeks to come.

6,000 men and women in New York have indicated their desire to become Communists by signing an application card and paying an initiation fee. The process of helping these comrades to fulfill that desire cannot be pigeon-holed as a "new member problem"—the sole province of the membership department or org. department or a specially-assigned comrade. As we become a really mass Party, the political integration of the masses in our Party becomes a *central job* of the entire political leadership, State, County, Section and Branch.

What does this mean, practically?

First, the building of strong Membership Committees, the Branch life-line to its membership, must not be the private property of the Secretary-Treasurer, left to buck her way through as best she can among the multitude of campaigns and tasks confronting the Branch.

We recruited 6,000 people in three months because, among other things, we made Party-building the *touchstone* of our every activity. The *integration* of the new members in our Party must, likewise, be regarded as a test of every mass campaign and organizational measure. For the process of making our new members "at home" in the Party is part of the process of making our Party more "at home," so to speak, among the masses.

The struggle for full citizenship as an American working-class Marxist Party; the extension of inner Party democracy, eliminating "vest pocket" methods which restrict the full participation of the members; the development of educational methods which allow for more give-and-take, in which theoretical discussions flow from the current experiences of the members and result in practical actions in which the member can play a part—these big questions of Party functioning are arising in practice, particularly in those Branches with a large number of new members. Their solution requires real thought and study, not by our leaders alone, but by all of us in the Branches, trade unions and community organizations—the new members, too!

What have been a few of our observations along these lines so far? What are some of the immediate steps indicated?

A.—In joining, our new members felt that the Party could help them to become politically more effective in the war effort *where they are today*, their trade union, community organization, CDVO, etc. Most of our new members consciously want to know more about the Party, its history and theory, and want its guidance on day-to-day issues. But they cannot all come to Branch meetings or to formal classes to get this. Probably not more than 25 per cent of our new members are attending Branch meetings and a tiny proportion, not more than 600 of our 6,000 recruits, are today in *any* form of class. This alarming situation, if not tackled at once, will inevitably result in a vast number of our new members drifting away before they have even really become part of the Party—people who *want* to be Party members!

1. *The Membership Committee* is the key to contact with our members, new and old—not a mere dues-collection mechanism but for many members their *sole present political con-*

tact with the Party! Strong Membership Committees that discuss political issues with the comrades, bring them literature and the *Daily Worker* and help them to find a place in Party activity, are *indispensable*. Monthly meetings of some Membership Committees are now preparing the comrades to discuss issues such as the Lewis-Reuther conspiracy, the meaning of the Communist International resolution—issues which the members raise when they are visited.

2. The *Daily Worker* is our *only* means for the *day-to-day* guidance of the Party membership. The State Committee is offering to each new member, who is not already a regular reader, a one-month free mailed subscription to the *Daily Worker*. This will accomplish its purpose only if steps are taken to help guarantee that the member continues reading when his sub has ended.

3. *Victory—and After*, in the new 10c edition, “the book for the duration,” should reach the hands of every new member who does not now have it.

4. *Classes*: In forming classes we should attempt to find out what the new members themselves want. While many hundreds more will gladly attend the Workers School and regular new members’ classes if they are personally approached, we should not exclude other forms: home discussion circles, new members conferences, etc. Many of our new recruits come to the Party with tremendous experience as mass leaders and are ready today for Party leadership training classes.

B.—The tremendous majority of the workers who have joined our Party want and expect *action*. They see themselves as part of a Party that is in the thick of war activities and struggles—their Party, a Party which *does* things and in which they can *do* things. What perspectives does this raise for the Branches?

1. *Branch meetings*, while including ever more and better cultural and social features, should not become simply forums where no practical activity is planned. More members should report on what they are doing. We should try to develop our general theoretical discussions out of our concrete problems and experiences. In such discussions the new comrades can come forward with their ideas and questions

much more easily than at the "guest speaker" type of meeting.

2. *Activities Committees*, formed around what the members are interested in and want to do, provide a natural, familiar form for organizing the work of the Branch. New members in some Branches have become leaders of such committees because of something *they themselves wanted done*—a child care center for the neighborhood, etc.

3. *Inner democracy in the Branch*. In Branch after Branch we have seen that the new members are full of a thousand questions about how the Party works—indicating that our new recruits in no sense feel themselves to be merely "guests" at the Party meeting, but are ready to assume responsibility for its decisions and activities. We should study our methods, examine whether or not the executive tends to usurp the democratic rights and duties of the members, whether we have real elections of leaders or tend to appoint them. Does the Executive keep minutes and report to the membership, to which it is responsible? Do the Committees report on their activities? Do our members feel free to criticize the work of the leaders and make suggestions? Do the members participate in setting quotas, etc.? Some Branches have had signal success in discussions, of a real political character, around the question of what Party dues money is used for. Some are planning to hold budget hearings in introducing the Fund Drive, making the acceptance of a quota the decision of the *entire membership*, based on its consciousness of the needs of the Party organization and the Press.

These questions, and many others, are before us for some really deep thinking. None of us has all the answers. Not the Party leadership alone, but the Branch member, new and old, in the course of solving day-to-day problems, will make contributions to these answers. Never was the job of leading a Branch, of working on a membership or activity committee, a more creative one!

As good ideas are conceived, as new methods are found workable, as telling experiences occur, Branch and Club leaders are urged to write them in to *Party Organizer*, to make them the property of their Section and County

Committees, so that the entire Party may benefit from the rich mass experience of our members, both the new and the old, in the struggle for our nation's survival.

This is the second issue of *Party Organizer*.

It is the purpose of this little magazine to be a tool in the hands of our Party leadership. We want it to be down-to-earth, practical, concrete. We want it to show *how* things are done. We want it to reflect the experiences of our Party branches in solving their day-to-day problems.

If the magazine is to serve this purpose, if it is to be indeed a *Party organizer*, we must know what *you*, the branch and section leader, are thinking. We must have your contributions, your suggestions, your criticisms.

Whether or not *Party Organizer* will continue to appear will depend on its usefulness to you. We shall have to base our judgment on your reactions. Please write in and let us know what you think.

Recent Developments in the Capitol District

By Newton Hustead

During the Recruiting Drive our Party in the Capitol District recruited 51 new members; 65 per cent of them came from steel, General Electric, and leather, thus substantially increasing the industrial composition of our Party.

These achievements, while rather modest in comparison to those of the hard-hitting Buffalo District, have accomplished four major gains for our area.

1. Our Party here has demonstrated to itself that the building of a mass Party is not being held back by anything but our own limitations, and these can be eradicated. Workers are ready to listen to us. They are ready to follow us any time we make very clear the necessary direction.

Open Communists

The majority of our comrades in U.E., steel and leather work openly in the shops as Communists. Throughout the industries our comrades are being elected to important trade union posts, as a growing recognition of the role of the Communists in the fight to win the war and to strengthen our labor movement. Last week, for instance, the Party organizer of Gloversville was elected chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Leather Workers Union. This is a tribute to the untiring work of Charlie Hildreth, and to the workers' growing understanding of the role of our Party in the labor movement.

In Schenectady, our Party members are in contact with large numbers of workers. The relations of our members with non-Party workers are good, and are improving. One indication of this is shown by the fact that our comrades in the past few months have gotten over 300 subscriptions to

The Worker in Schenectady; 90 per cent of these subs were gotten on the bench from G.E. and locomotive workers.

2. Our Party has made considerable improvement in its work with the Negro people, both in Schenectady and Albany; 19 of our new members came from the ranks of the Negro people, with the majority of them coming from basic industries.

This has created a rapid acceleration of our work in the Negro communities, and from this new base we expect a steady growth of our Party among the Negro people, which has heretofore been one of the weakest phases of our work. This initial improvement has been the direct result of fights against various types of vicious Jim-Crow discrimination against the Negro people.

In Schenectady, the Party and the Y.C.L. are participating in a joint campaign, in conjunction with the labor movement and progressive citizens, to upgrade Negro workers in the war industries. Results of this campaign are going to do much to unite the progressive whites and the Negro people of our area—so essential for all win-the-war issues.

Trade Union Work

3. Our Party, with the special aid of our new recruits, is intensifying its work in the trade unions, especially around the urgent legislative struggles that the times demand. While our work here is not in the so-called "gratifying stage," nevertheless considerable has been accomplished, in many cases from scratch.

In addition, our Party has worked to encourage the unions to begin to reach outside of the labor movement and give leadership to the non-union masses in our cities. Some progress can be noted, especially in the fight to roll back the high cost of living.

4. Our Party has played no small role in helping all progressive forces in working for labor unity in our area.

The Capitol District Labor Council, which now speaks for some 75,000 workers, has made some big steps forward both in proving the need for unity of action by labor, and on the general legislative front. Certainly, labor in our District is much closer to understanding the need of national

labor unity to win the war than three months ago.

So much for the cash receipts of the last few months. As for the other side of the balance sheet, it takes very little reflecting to see that with all our struggles to strengthen the size and political strength of our forces, we have done far too little to root out our special weaknesses. I'll list a few.

New Members

1. Our attitude toward new recruits is not what it should be. There is a general tendency to allow too many to sink or swim in their first three months of membership. If somehow they pull through this initial period, then they begin to receive our attention, on the assumption that they must evidently mean business. Far too many of even our most recent recruits can and may be lost in those first three months.

We are setting up Stewards, three or four for each branch, to act as a political link between the branch and all members who don't get to meetings regularly. So far there has been a tendency for our stewards to work too narrowly, as dues collectors rather than assistant organizers with politics as their main concern.

Many people join our Party with a variety of doubts and confusion in their minds about the historical role of our Party. We have not given these submerged questions a chance to come to the surface, where they can be properly discussed and answered.

Lack of attention in a social, friendly way to the wives of many of our new industrial recruits has lost us some of our best recruits. We recognize that the average man doesn't go around telling us when difficulties develop with his wife, who wonders why all the sudden meetings. In our district recently, we have lost four or five excellent comrades for this reason alone.

New members' classes, with wives invited, which would do much to help this solution, have failed to mature because we have allowed difficulties to stop us.

2. Another general weakness has been the lack of work done in our community on strictly local problems. By ignoring local issues, even if they are not world-shaking, we

set ourselves off from the average person in our community.

3. Our educational work within our Party, from leading bodies to our clubs, is not of good quality, and this critical weakness reflects itself in all our work. A recent poll taken among some of our most active trade unionists in the Party on the question, "What is the role of the trade union movement in the Soviet Union?" brought enough silence to show the paucity of our basic educational work, especially among our busy trade unionists.

Solving Our Own Problems

4. Many of us working in the labor movement and other mass organizations find ourselves like Charlie Chaplin in "Modern Times." Every part of us is hitched to some committee or job or plan, so that often the only thing left to do when our Party needs organizational work done, is to wiggle our whiskers.

This business of tending to everybody's problem except our own is particularly felt in our district, and must get cured. Interestingly enough, many of our new recruits are the first to notice this weakness.

5. Our work in this area must be criticized for its lack of attention during these last months to the special problems of farmers. Not a single farmer was recruited in our Drive. Not having gasoline, we have sort of dismissed the possibility of doing work among farmers. This is wrong. Farmers have gas to go to meetings where their special problems are to be discussed. Proper attention to the farm question could well have brought farm representatives to some of our numerous win-the-war conferences, high-cost-of-living meetings, etc.

In spite of our weaknesses, we believe that the campaign of the last three months has taught us all a lot. Nothing stands in our way but ourselves in building a much larger and more effective Party in the Capitol District. We propose to keep out of our own way in the months ahead.

Dues: Our Party's Barometer

DUES payments are a barometer of an organization's stability. They reflect the attitude of the membership to their organization, and portray the exact relationship that exists between the two. No bona fide organization can exist and function without regular dues payments. Dues are not only a source of financial support; by paying dues the member reaffirms his confidence in his organization and repledges his allegiance to its program and activities.

The dues situation in our own state is far from satisfactory. As of the end of April, 15.3% of our membership failed to pay January dues; 25.7% failed to pay February dues, and 44% has not yet paid March dues.

These figures need no elaboration. They are a danger sign, indicating that we may have lost contact with 15% of our membership. Unless we immediately retrieve these members, we will undo our splendid achievement in recruiting 6,000 members during the recent drive.

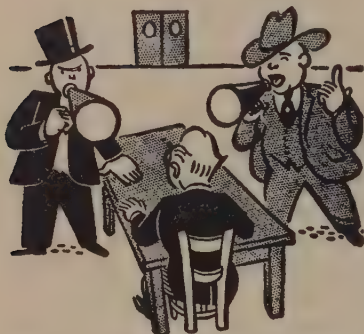
It is for this reason that the State Committee decided to initiate a Dues Control Month during May, with the objective of achieving a 100% May dues payment by June 15.

Permanent solution of the dues problem, however, cannot depend on drives. We must deal with dues continuously, systematically, politically. We must instill in every comrade a real understanding of the importance of dues. We should make it a regular practice to give our comrades financial reports at branch meetings, accounting for the money collected and discussing the problems of the branch budget. We should make a conscious effort to change our old dues-paying habits. Until now we paid our dues planlessly—henceforth we should ask our members to pay their dues *at the beginning of each month*, for as many months as they can afford.

Let us weave dues payments into the fabric of our Party life.



Our nation's war is being run by Washington. Everything done there affects the war and the peace— affects you.



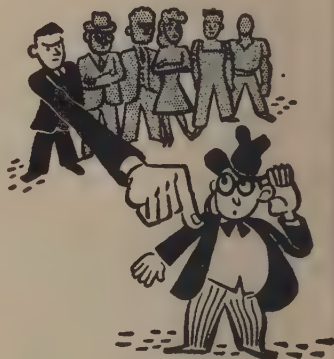
Bills in Congress are handled first in committees. High-priced lobbyists frequently wield the axe that kills bills in committee.

Learn about Congressional committees. Write to the respective committee heads and be represented at hearings before the committee.

How to A

You can affect Congress. Your and telegrams he receives. He to delegations. He is deeply co low is pictured the way YOU ca

(Pix from the CIO N



You as an individual or you through your organization can affect Congress and each individual Congressman. Let the voter's finger be on him constantly.



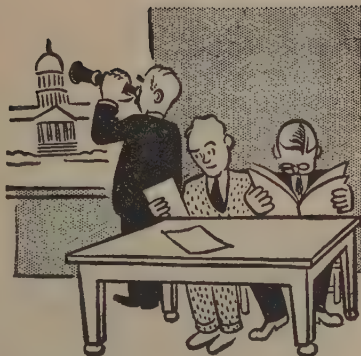
Congress

atches very carefully the mail
ne calls and gives due weight
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ss. Read it, study it, file and

by S. W. Gerson)



r Legislative Committee must
a functioning body. Give it time
the order of business of every
eting. See to it that it makes
necessary proposals for AC-
TION.



You should have a Legislative Com-
mittee in your branch, union and
community organization. It should
follow events closely—especially
how your Congressman votes.



Letters and telegrams are the quick-
est, easiest, most effective way of
informing Congress. Keep them
brief, to the point, and write them
individually.

Keep tabs on your
Congressman when he
comes home. Visit him
at his office or club.
Get him down to your
union, branch or com-
munity organization.

The Branch and Trade Union Activity

By Rose Wortis

NEW YORK STATE has an organized labor movement of close to 2,000,000. The membership of the Party and Y.C.L., including the new recruits, is about 35,000. More than half of our comrades are trade unionists—between 17,000 and 18,000. Working amongst the 2,000,000 workers, they are still a minority. If, however, this group could be fully activated in the trade union movement, it would become a powerful force in helping the labor movement to achieve its objectives and advancing labor in the life of the nation. Unfortunately, only a small part of the 18,000—in the main, the comrades organized in the industrial branches—consider trade union work their major responsibility. The majority of our trade union comrades, scattered throughout the neighborhood branches, are disconnected from the comrades active in their trade union. They are often not even known to other Communists working in the same shop.

This greatly reduces the effectiveness of the Communists in the trade unions and opens the way for all sorts of disruptive forces—the Coughlinites, Trotskyites and die-hard “Social Democrats”—to demoralize the workers and weaken the war effort. In recent months this has become especially serious in some of the basic war industries, such as shipyard, aircraft, etc.

The Neighborhood Branch Is the Key

The Party has attempted to find ways and means of activating our people in the trade unions. Thus far we have met with only partial success because our main efforts were amongst those comrades who are organized into industrial branches. In the neighborhood branches, embracing the overwhelming majority of the membership, we have not begun to solve the problem with any degree of effectiveness. Despite our discussions there is still a prevailing opinion in

most of the Party organization that the responsibility for education, leadership and guidance of our trade union and shop workers rests exclusively with the Trade Union Department and the Industrial Division. So long as this concept continues, we will not be able to make our maximum contribution in helping to solve the many problems in the trade union movement decisive to the prosecution of the war.

Today large numbers of our comrades, formerly active in neighborhood branches, are in basic industry. Most of our neighborhood branches have not as yet fully recognized the importance of this changed composition of our Party. There have been many instances where branch organizers were almost ready to write off comrades who secured jobs in war industries and who because of their long hours or different shifts could no longer function actively in their neighborhood branch.

Greatest Attention to Trade Unionists

The job of a neighborhood branch is to provide leadership for all its comrades, those who work in trade unions no less than those who are active in neighborhood organizations. In fact, those in trade unions deserve the greatest attention, for they work among proletarian masses, the most decisive section of the population. Many of them have the opportunity every day to influence scores and even hundreds of workers. They can help shape policies of great trade unions. They can aid in the solution of basic war problems—the problems of production.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that our branches and sections begin to discuss ways and means of giving better and more detailed attention to their shop and union workers, the soldiers on the home front. Our trade union comrades should feel that they can come to the branches and sections with their problems, for help and advice. Discussions in our branches must include the developments and trends in the trade union movement, as well as various special problems and the means for their solution.

Among the new recruits, we have thousands of young and enthusiastic comrades trained in the discipline of the shops. With a little attention from the leadership of the branches

and the sections, these comrades can become good Communists by becoming better trade unionists.

There are many comrades in our Party, old tried unionists, who have gone through the mill but who never asserted themselves in the leadership of their respective branches. These comrades must be drawn more actively into the leadership of the branches as trade union directors, shop work directors and branch organizers, to help our Party organization become more sensitive to trade union problems and thus improve our mass work in this most important field, thereby further building and strengthening our Party and its ties with the masses.

... all we must require as conditions of membership are the following four points:

- 1. Agreement with party program and activity in applying it where one is active.*
- 2. Participation in some phase of war work.*
- 3. Reading of the party press, especially the "Daily Worker."*
- 4. Payment of dues and membership in a branch, but not compulsory regular attendance.*

—Williamson.

How We Got 'Worker' Renewals

By *Marta Flaks*

(*Westchester Branch, 6th A.D., Bronx*)

When Mickey, our section organizer, asked me at a bureau meeting to take charge of April renewals for our branch, I accepted eagerly. I realized that to do a good job I would not only have to devote all my spare time to the work, but also that I must involve other comrades. I also knew that the problem was not just to go out and "bring in the business," but to meet *Worker* readers as a representative of our Party; to get to know them; to find out how close they were to the Party; and if possible to recruit them.

Here is how we went about accomplishing this:

To get the renewals, we always made it a point to speak to the subscriber personally, never to any other member of the household, even if that meant another trip. We felt it would be a mistake to approach someone not acquainted with our paper—at least in this drive. It worked. At our next call, we would usually be received in a friendly way and invited in to see the subscriber, because the people already knew us.

This would not always mean the sub was "in the bag." Often there was hesitation on the part of the reader to renew, even if he agreed in every way with the policy of the paper. The most common excuse was lack of time.

Working Out a Method

I for one worked out a regular method for dealing with these objections. First I would find out the subscriber's occupation. Then I would try to point out those features of our paper which might be of special interest to him. Then I showed him how the *Daily* deals with all the important issues of the day in short, well-written articles and editorials, how the reader is left with a clear understanding of what must

be done, if we want to win the war and to fight the battle on the home front against the wreckers of national unity, the labor-haters and the appeasers.

Usually the reader would realize that his lack of time for extensive reading was precisely the reason why he should renew his sub. Yes, even the tired housewife found she could relax better in the company of Pinky Rankin, the woman's page, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's warm-hearted, inspiring articles.

Recruiting Subscribers

After the renewal was made we would get acquainted, and I would ask my new-found friend to join the Party. I recruited five new members through renewals, as well as four others whom I met by canvassing with *The Worker*. Another comrade in our branch who has a personal following of fifteen *Worker* readers and six *Daily* readers, recruited three through renewals and two through the weekly deliveries. All told, fifteen new members out of the twenty-five our branch recruited were recruited directly as readers of our press.

One reader, a Negro woman, told me: "I have seen you many times doing your work in the neighborhood, working for us."

I told her there were many of us, but not enough—that we needed her to work *with us*. She turned to her husband. "You see," she said, "we should join the Party." He looked pleased as she signed the card. That was the way he had always wanted it—both of them joining the Party together.

We made a file of those people who wanted to join but could not, for various reasons. We did not lose any of those sympathizers. Some of them we keep on a mailing list for meetings and future affairs; some will be followed up as possible recruits later; still others we have down as possible financial supporters and petition signers.

Out of the thirty-six readers whom I contacted, I got thirty renewals. This included six who got the renewals through the mail in order to get the map, and two so-called repeaters—repeaters being subscribers who are revisited after other comrades try to get them to renew their subscriptions and fail.

Altogether, out of ninety-four previous subscribers, the branch visited seventy-four for renewals. The other twenty had moved away, six of them into the armed forces. To those who moved letters were sent under their old addresses, and we expect some renewals as a result.

Out of the seventy-four subscribers visited, fifty-two renewed their subscriptions. We had twenty-two refusals with the following reasons given: Three persons converted their subscriptions into weekly deliveries through the branch. Two renewed through their industrial branches, three were approached by local newsdealers to patronize their stands, and two defense workers, annoyed by neighbors opening their mail, promised to buy the paper from newsstands. Twelve were gift subs, and out of those six were definitely hostile, while the other six are possibilities, and will be revisited. Altogether, the branch feels we have gained sixty-two regular *Worker* readers.

Some Shortcomings

On the negative side, we did not succeed in involving enough comrades in this important work. We hope to do so in the coming month. Our bureau set up a press committee recently, whose work it will be to get our press into the hands of all our branch members, and to work in the neighborhood in a more effective way. Each one on this committee of ten will be given work according to ability and inclination, and will be made to feel that we depend upon his work as an important wheel in an important machine—the Party Press.

I never worked so hard in my life, but I had a glorious time doing the April renewals. My Party education, limited as it may be, enabled me to bring the message of our Party to the people. Talking to people makes one believe in people. The working people know what they want. They are looking in the right direction. Once they understand our Party's aim, they will look to it for guidance and leadership. The most effective weapon in our work against fascism and reaction is the Party Press.

Building a Branch in "Little Italy"

By Rena Burton and George Kay

OUR Club, the Sacco-Vanzetti Club, works in lower Manhattan's "Little Italy." Before the war, local fascist leaders and their press dominated the people, many of whom took a pride in Mussolini because Mussolini had put Italy on the map as a world power. Today this has largely changed. Bleeker Street, Cornelia Street, Mulberry Street are dotted with service flags—a demonstration of the pride and warmth that our Italian-American people feel for our boys in the armed forces.

Our Club has recruited forty neighbors during our recruiting drive, twenty-three of whom are Italian, including three Italian women. This is a larger number of Italian-American recruits than our whole section has been able to bring into the Party in the last five years.

The new recruits consist of both young Italian-Americans and of older Italian-speaking folks. The young people come entirely from the group who are going into industry for the first time in their lives and who have gotten into the trade union movement. The older recruits are in the main people who have been anti-fascists for years and who now have new hope for the liberation of Italy through the People's War.

Weekly Broadcasts

The results of the Recruiting Drive show clearly what can be done in a neighborhood like ours at this time in history. But we are only beginning to do mass work in the community. We got off to a good start with a series of eight weekly broadcasts in Italian over Station WHOM, sponsored by our section. Then, too, a significant job is being done in the Mott-Mulberry Street area by our comrades in Civilian Defense.

Some time ago the Party officially offered its services to

the Lower East Side Defense Council for whatever work needed to be done. Since then, blood donations and salvage have been organized, and Italian women from the community have been drawn into CDVO as group organizers.

Within our branch, our Italian-American members, old and new, have organized themselves into a separate group which meets informally the weeks between branch meetings. The group has political discussions and some social life. Families and friends are invited, and these gatherings are doing a great deal to make our new members feel at home in the Party. Naturally we also hope that both the social evenings and the discussions will aid in further recruiting. We intend to make them more and more open and public in character, leading up to real forums for the discussion of the community's problems.

L'UNITA DEL POPULO and THE WORKER

Our first serious attempt to "spread the work" will go into effect during the control period when comrades will sign a pledge to canvass with the *Worker* twelve times a year. This will not be a big task for anyone, but if carried out, will increase the circulation of our press ten-fold. How important such an increase will be can best be understood when we face the fact that the circulation of the progressive Italian paper, *L'Unita del Populo*, is almost microscopic, while *The Worker* reaches only a few hundred Italian-American readers. The circulation of the *Daily* is even smaller than that of the Sunday paper.

While Italian-Americans have proven their loyalty in the armed forces and are more and more taking their places on the production front, there are still many obstacles to their full participation in the war effort. The defeatists are not losing a single opportunity to utilize the discontent stirred up by their own disruptive tactics to dampen the enthusiasm of the people, and national minorities are fruitful ground for this. For one thing, it is a simple trick to turn the anger expressed daily at the pushcarts on Bleeker Street over escarole at twenty cents a head into grumbling at the President and the Administration. This the fifth-column press is desperately attempting to do.

And yet the Italian-Americans are responding enthusiastically to the Appeal to the People of Italy, sponsored by the Federation of Italians for Unity and Victory. Many names in our community are already on the Scroll to be signed by 1,000,000 Italian-Americans calling on their brothers in Italy to join with the United Nations against Nazism and Fascism to save their country from destruction. It is our job to further show our Italian-American neighbors how mass support for the President's "Hold the Line" order, and pressure for a swift opening of a Second Front in Europe, will be the strongest argument to assure the Italian-Americans that all nations, including Italy, will be freed from fascism.

Italian-American Leaders

We feel that one positive and extremely important advance our branch has made in its neighborhood work recently is the fact that today the leaders of our clubs are Italian-Americans. For the most part these are old comrades who in the past have always been reluctant to take leadership because they felt they were insufficiently developed. By our actions we agreed with them, and always managed to find white-collar comrades to take leading positions, failing to develop the Italian-Americans as we should have.

Yet once they were "discovered," the Italian-Americans promptly got to work, found new recruits and a real following in the neighborhood. A good example of this is the chairman of our Sacco-Vanzetti Club, an old Party member and a citizen of the community for twenty years, who recently recruited fourteen of his own people. It is our job within our clubs and branches to help, guide, and learn from our Italian-American comrades, themselves representative of the Italian-Americans, how we can best function in this community.

War Activities and the Party Branch

By Isidore Begun

The American people are judging all parties, groups and individuals by their contributions to the war-thinking, war-organization and fighting that this war demands. Our Party is acquitting itself well on these war fronts, and the recognition of this by the people of the State is shown in the over-fulfillment of the recruiting quota in record time. But the war is a hard driver. It demands the utmost from every individual and organization. Nothing less will do. Nothing less will be sufficient for a victorious people's war and a lasting people's peace.

The Branch and the Local CDVO

The war work of our branches requires analysis from this point of view. Are we doing all we can as a branch for the war effort? For the present, I wish to limit the discussion to specific war activities and not consider the general war work of our branches, such as our struggle for a nationally planned and controlled war economy, the realization of the Casablanca decision for the invasion of Europe, national and international labor unity, the attempt to make Congress carry through a Victory Legislative Program, etc.

What are the "specific" war activities that a Party branch can participate in? The local C.D.V.O. office is the center of community war effort. Through this office are channeled not only the various educational campaigns and war drives but also the mobilization of the community and actual assignments to civilian war tasks. The local defense council is national unity in the community.

Usually where there is a functioning Civilian Defense Council, the Party Club is welcomed to help, together with all patriotic Americans. There may be some reluctance on the part of certain C.D.V.O. local leaders to accept our help.

These hesitations and fears, where they exist, usually reflect in some form a fear that the Communists want to "take over." The work of individual Communists can soon show that we have no purpose but to help, in common with our fellow Americans. Help can and should be given to the local civilian defense office even when the spirit in the office is not too cordial. When this is done, the attitude toward the Party branch is soon changed and the local office will gladly accept and even come to the local Party organization for help. The real problem is to produce in quantity and quality in the common effort. Many individual Communists and many branches are involved in the local C.D.V.O. work—but not all branches, and not as effectively as they can and should be. Every branch of our Party should be in direct touch with the local C.D.V.O. and be one of its most cooperative and hard-working groups. This is not yet so. And where the Branch is not an integral part of the local C.D.V.O., it is not adequately fulfilling its war role.

The Branch and the Red Cross

The Red Cross has numerous activities. Among the most important is the fulfilling of set quotas of blood-donors. Many clubs have done excellent work for the blood donor service. Some of our clubs are official stations for the Red Cross. Through leaflets, meetings, tables at street corners, etc., they have not only seen to it that all of our own members have contributed blood but, what is equally important, have helped mobilize the entire community. Some of our branches have not only served excellently to secure blood-donors, but have received official recognition in the Red Cross financial drive and in their work activities such as preparing bandages. The Red Cross is cooperative and appreciative whenever we really deliver the goods.

The Branch and the War Saving and Bond Campaigns

The Treasury Department has a well-organized staff for the sale of War Bonds and Stamps. Speakers, literature and movies are available. Our Branch activity here has been good but spotty. Even a small effort has yielded excellent results.

The Kings County organization is in the lead, and through the tireless work of Councilman Cacchione, is approaching the \$200,000 mark. The other counties are far behind. This work can and should be systematically organized and intensified.

The A.W.V.S.

In some communities a good deal of the local war effort is channeled through the A.W.V.S. The city leaders of this organization will welcome all Americans, and have so officially declared themselves. It is an individual membership organization and our clubs should encourage our members to help this organization in its worthy tasks.

The O.P.A.

The struggle for a stabilized war economy hits home most forcefully in the need for an over-all dollar-and-cent price control and rationing program.

Labor Advisory Committees are being formed in each O.P.A. district. In the New York City and State O.P.A. offices there are Group Work Specialists, who are anxious to work with organized groups both in regard to educational and enforcement campaigns. Local War Price and Rationing Boards are now in the process of establishing "Price Committees" and attached to each Board is a "Community Member" whose duty it is to secure local cooperation in the Board's work. Many of our branches have been active both in the educational and enforcement campaigns of the O.P.A. The response of the Community has been good and in many sections the work of the Party Branch in getting to the community the facts about rationing and price control was appreciated by our neighbors.

Weaknesses and Shortcomings and How to Remedy Them

1. The "specific" war work of our branches has been sporadic. Each activity was in most instances a single activity. There was no development of the work from one action to another. In most instances, after the blood donors' meeting was held and the applications signed, it marked the end of

the activity until the action was repeated or another activity started. It is necessary for the branches to develop a war work program in one or several fields—to plan a whole series of activities by which to carry through the program and achieve the goals set. Thus, if the activity is to secure blood donors, the goal to be achieved, the activities to be engaged in, and the follow-up of the program should be planned in advance. The same holds good for a consumers' program or a bond-selling program or participation in the local C.D.V.O.

2. Too often individual Communists engage in war work without the help and cooperation of the Branch itself. Thus the individual Communist is denied the help which his fellow members can give and in turn the other members of the branch are denied the experiences and lessons that the individual Communist can contribute to the other members.

3. There is as yet in most instances no organizational apparatus whereby the branch as an organization can plan war activities and participate in the war activities of the community. The immediate need is for a War Activities Committee and a chairman of such a committee in each branch. This Committee can be subdivided as to function and personnel. One member of the Committee can be in charge of the blood donor activity, another the representative to the local C.D.V.O., another can be in touch with the local O.P.A. board.

The War Activities Committee should have a table in the headquarters for its literature, bonds and stamps, blood-donor applications, etc. It should have its own bulletin board and perhaps issue its own Newsletter or have a section of the general branch bulletin where such exists. From time to time, the branch executive boards should review the work of their War Activities Committees and get a report from the chairman. The War Activities Director of each branch may find it useful to exchange experiences and plan cooperatively on an A.D. or county-wide scale. As activity is increased, planned and guided, War Activities Committees on an A.D. and county scale may become necessary. This should be the perspective as our branches become fully integrated in the war work of our local communities.

Community Clubs

By John Lavin

TODAY, we have more than a hundred community clubs in New York City, ranging in size from thirty to three hundred members. A new spirit pervades the Party membership. Great pride is taken in the new club headquarters. The clubs have come through with flying colors in their first major test—the Party building drive. And the new clubs provide better conditions for holding the new members.

Attendance has generally improved. The quality of the political discussions is better. More than twenty of the clubs put out their own publications every two weeks, dealing with many matters, from current legislation to events in the life of the clubs. More and more comrades have been stimulated to write original plays, skits and songs to enrich the meetings.

Political Activities

However, as good and as necessary as all these features are, we must point out that the clubs generally have not yet become effective political factors in the communities. A club may have the finest headquarters and hold the best club meetings, *but it must also organize political activities*; otherwise its good meetings and handsome headquarters are of no value to the people of the community.

Many of our clubs have members in numerous community organizations which are making splendid contributions to the war effort. But these contributions, excellent though they are, are not made in the name of the Party, and the Party is not seen as the vital force energizing these movements. Few clubs are inaugurating campaigns in the community in their own name. Some clubs have not put out a Party leaflet in months.

Wherever the clubs have shown individual initiative, they have met with success.

In Harlem, our A.D. clubs, acting officially in the name of the Communist Party, were able to mobilize the people—even involving prominent non-Party leaders—in community conferences on the high cost of living. In East and Lower Harlem, two clubs were given complete jurisdiction over their entire areas by the Red Cross and the local CDVO for the raising of Red Cross funds. One of these clubs has been commended by the Red Cross for its meritorious work. The 22nd A.D. Club is the permanent center for all Red Cross activity. In the 9th A.D., the club held a meeting on Jewish atrocities, which was addressed by a prominent rabbi, a minister and a Party speaker. The 4th and 6th A.D.'s held a similar meeting at which a State Assemblyman and a City Councilman spoke and a rabbi delivered the benediction.

Examples of this kind are still too few. But they could be multiplied many times if every club understood the changes the war has made in the thinking of the people and their attitude toward Communists. Our clubs will be recognized as people's organizations, they will win public confidence and esteem, they will be able to smash red-baiting, only to the degree that they openly, as Communists, exert their efforts and show their initiative.

Activities Committees

Some activities committees have developed community movements. Some examples are Chelsea, Yorkville, and Washington Heights, where broad movements for nurseries have been created. Each of these nursery committees involves about six members of the club.

Unfortunately, many activities committees exist in name only. They lack a program and are constantly being reorganized. Perhaps this is because these committees are often headed by new leadership, lacking experience in such work and consequently in need of continual guidance and attention from the club executive.

One of the major problems is attention to the member working in war industry. Each club should periodically call these comrades together. The work should be headed by the club industrial director, who should at all times be in contact with these workers.

More day groups should be organized to accommodate night workers and housewives who find it difficult to attend the evening meetings.

Membership Committees

The heart of the larger club is the Membership Committee. It is a political committee which is concerned, first of all, with the political work of every member, with particular emphasis on those comrades who do not, or cannot, attend meetings regularly. It must know all the members, understand their problems and guide them in their mass work and in building the Party. It must be aware of each member's capabilities, so that it can make suggestions to the club executive for the promotion of comrades to leading posts and for filling vacancies and making additions to committees.

To achieve the best results the Membership Committee must establish, not a mechanical relationship, but a political and personal relationship with each member. There must be a patient, human, comradely approach to the problems of each member. This means that visits to such members as cannot attend meetings should be conducted in a manner to bring them political clarity, a sense of being involved directly or indirectly in the club's activities, with the purpose of creating interest and enthusiasm and the possibilities of activizing these members. By no means should these visits be given over to the handing down of directives or exhortations.

Now that over 6,000 new members have come into our ranks, the efficient functioning of the Membership Committees is crucial. Those organizational weaknesses that existed before must be eliminated, not only so contact can be maintained with all the members, but particularly to hold our recruiting gains.

What kind of leadership must be provided for large clubs?

1. The executive must be capable of handling and giving leadership to the complex mechanism of the large club and of seeing to it that each of its parts works.

2. There must be a political understanding of the com-

munity, giving a clear and practical answer to every question which concerns the people.

3. The club leader should be known and respected in the community.

Obviously, only a collective leadership, equivalent in stature—as far as possible—to a section committee, can effectively organize such clubs. This is a goal to be fought for. The new clubs and the needs of the war have brought forward new leaders with imagination and initiative, especially from the ranks of women comrades.

New Habits of Work

Above all, a relentless struggle still must be waged against old habits and methods of work, like overloaded agendas, starting late, adjourning late, unvaried programs. There is a bogging down in organizational and inner Party detail. This is the main reason why in some clubs the leadership has had no real opportunity to develop its own initiative, or that of the club, for mass work in the community.

The county organization will be able to help remedy this situation through the establishment of county departments—press, membership, education, war activities, industries, and so on. These county functionaries will have—and are developing—a direct relationship with those in corresponding positions in the sections and clubs.

So, instead of one Club Leader being burdened with a multitude of problems, each club functionary will be reached, guided, his knowledge deepened as to his tasks and responsibilities, his initiative and own independent thinking encouraged.

We have to develop in the club leaders the feeling that they are responsible politically for the entire community. If this is achieved, then the clubs are on the way to becoming important public political factors in the community.

Speakers for Our Branches

By Mickey Horwitz

THE recruiting campaign served as a proving ground upon which to test the merits and functioning of the State Speakers Bureau to our branches. In the main, with only an occasional breakdown, the machinery held up, contributing in no small degree to the success of the drive.

Speakers Department

The following figures serve to illustrate this point: Speakers were provided to branches on 255 occasions from February 1 to April 30. During the same period, lecturers appeared at 64 forums arranged by our clubs; and on many occasions entertainment was provided for specially arranged recruiting functions.

The open branch meetings and forums undoubtedly helped our branches make the first step in bringing our Party and its position to ever larger groups of people in the neighborhood. The face, or at least the voice, of the Party emerged more distinctly on the vital issues of the war. Many of these meetings, but still too few, were enhanced by the addition of auxiliary educational forms—movies, skits, etc.

Some Negative Features

Certain erroneous conceptions have arisen because of the loose manner in which we operated during the campaign. It was never the intention of the Speakers Department to provide speakers from the State Office for all occasions. Even if we were able to fill all requests (and we are not) it would be incorrect to do so for two reasons: (1) the need for developing speakers from among the branch leadership and membership; and (2) the need for developing at branch meetings discussions related to the work of the branch in the Community, which can best be done by members of the branch executive and those comrades active in

mass community work. We cannot permit our branches to become pure lecture forums, which is the case in some instances.

Plan the Meeting

What can we provide and what is expected of our branches when a speaker is obtained from the State Office? In the first place, two weeks' notice is required: the State Office needs a few days to line up the speaker; and the branch needs sufficient time to carry through plans to guarantee a successful meeting. The meetings for which we will provide speakers must be of a mass character, as distinct from other types of branch meetings which, though always open to non-members, are not planned to assume the character of a mass meeting. We will be in a position to serve our clubs with speakers for branch mass meetings about once every six weeks or two months. What is expected is that the branch executive deal not only with the mechanics of organizing a successful meeting to guarantee good attendance but also consider in such discussion what is expected from the meeting so that concrete action will flow as a result. No meeting can be considered successful unless some plan of action results from it.

Outside speakers can be of tremendous help, or they can be a hindrance to our branches. Let's use them planfully, judiciously. Then they can be of inestimable value in clarifying and inspiring the non-Party masses.

The Communist Party is the PaPrty of the working class. The Party is the most advanced section of the working class, its vanguard, uniting its immediate interests with its ultimate and broadest historical goal. The Party is its most organized detachment, furnishing the working class with a nervous system and center of intelligence, which enables it to think and act as a class.

—Browder.

BRANCH AND CLUB LEADERS:

Make every member of your branch or club a reader of the **DAILY WORKER** by helping them to **PLACE A STANDING ORDER** with their local news-dealer.



Recognizing . . .

that it is my patriotic duty to respond to our government's appeal to reduce to a minimum the waste of paper and news print, I will cooperate by placing a **STANDING ORDER** with my newsdealer for the **DAILY WORKER**, ---- thereby reducing the number of unsold, wasted copies.

Newsstand location -----

Name -----

Section -----

Branch -----



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Complete at Only 10 Cents!

VICTORY—AND AFTER

By Earl Browder

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