

PARTY . . . ORGANIZER

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Problems of Organization and Leadership
—Brown

Register the Party Membership!

Recruiting in Western Pennsylvania
—Young

Party Building in New England—H. G.

Fighting the High Cost of Living

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PARTY ORGANIZER

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More Attention to Problems of Organization and Leadership!

By F. BROWN

IN THE last few issues of the *Party Organizer*, as well as in the directives to the districts, the center has emphasized very strongly the necessity of combining the recruiting drive with the improvement of dues payments.

We are approaching the January 1938 registration—a period in which we aim to bring every Party member into good standing. The figures show, however, that while the recruiting drive is progressing (4,100 members having been recruited during October), the total dues payments do not indicate that any real efforts are being made to check fluctuation. Some districts have shown even a higher figure in recruiting than in dues payments during the month of October. With few exceptions, the figures show that dues payments are far below the membership on the rolls, below the number of Party members that are active and attend unit meetings.

Two outstanding examples of good work are the Seattle and California districts. They show that real concentration by the leading forces on the problem of attendance in the units, combined with intensive political life and organizational measures to collect dues, can solve this vital problem.

Seattle, in a two-month period, was able to stabilize the

dues payments to over 90 per cent, and rates first in recruiting. Three hundred and fourteen new members joined in October.

So far the results of the drive have shown that recruiting is done by only a limited number of the most active comrades. The bulk of the Party membership is not yet involved. The outstanding reasons for this can be listed as follows:

1. The basic organizations of the Party are not yet mobilized in the drive.

2. The leading organs of the Party, and especially the membership commissions, do not pay adequate attention to the problem of attendance and dues payments.

3. In the lower organizations there is lack of political life because of insufficient attention and guidance by the responsible leading committees.

The third point is the axis for solving the problem of Party growth.

The best proof of the lack of initiative, of political life, is to be found in the weak response of the lower organizations in developing their own campaigns; in the decided decline in agitational material issued by the branches and units; in the mass meetings held by the lower organizations, in the issuance of shop papers and other bulletins.

What must be done to strengthen the lower organizations politically, and thus strengthen the recruiting power of the Party and the agitational ability of the Party to reach broader masses?

Improve Political Education

1. It is necessary to intensify educational activities by developing regular discussions in the lower organization around the main problems facing the Party. Editorials in the *Daily Worker*, articles in *The Communist* and *Party Organizer* should be utilized to the fullest extent. Educational meetings will be more fruitful if the leading comrades themselves will go to the units and help them organize an effective discussion with the participation

of the members, and if the discussion is directed towards helping the branches work out their own concrete tasks. With intensified educational work in the lower organizations, the units of the Party will be better armed to bring the position of the Party, on various problems, before the masses. More agitational material must be issued, more meetings must be called, connecting the various campaigns of the Party with local issues, thereby bringing the masses closer to the Party. Through our increased mass agitation, thousands of workers, farmers, professionals, etc., will join our ranks because they will better understand our policies, will see that the struggles our Party is leading are part and parcel of the aspirations of the toiling people. They will see that the program of our Party presents the real solution for the final liberation from capitalist bondage.

Develop Leadership Below

2. It is necessary to concentrate on a few organizational problems, the solution of which will strengthen the political life of the Party organization. These are:

(a) Strengthening the unit bureaus by bringing into leading positions (as unit organizers, educational directors, finance secretaries, etc.) those forces which are not only the most active, but the more politically developed. Wherever necessary, even to transfer some comrades from industrial and professional units into the branches in order to promote neighborhood activity. Furthermore, wherever possible, especially in the larger districts, to find ways and means of educating the leading comrades of the units through special lectures on Party organization, special evening schools, week-end classes, and other forms.

(b) Supervising the life and activities of the shop and industrial units to revitalize these organizations, and clarify their role, thus preventing their transformation into mere fractions. Again, we will solve this problem only by assigning leading forces to the most important shop and industrial units, by setting up an apparatus that will help these organizations issue shop papers and agitational

material. Our goal should be—*A shop paper for every shop unit!*

The leading comrades in the trade unions must play a real part in putting these organizations on the correct road. This will not only strengthen our influence in the shops, but also strengthen our position in the trade unions.

Clarity on Party Structure

(c) We must bring absolute clarity on problems of Party structure, on the basis of the Ninth Party Convention decision. We must eradicate the confusion that has arisen on the role and composition of the city committees, which in some places has led to the abandonment of the sections, and consequently to a detachment of the leadership from the lower organizations, and a concentration of leading forces at the top.

Certainly in the larger cities there is a need for city committees, based on representation from the lower organizations, which works out the policies of the Party. At the same time, however, we cannot conceive of the City Committee itself guiding the daily activities of all the Party organizations in a city, not only because of the number of units but also because of distance, and other reasons that must be taken into consideration. Wherever the Party is growing, the necessity of maintaining the sections, or building them, is felt, as well as the need for strengthening the leadership below. Sub-divisions, such as assembly or congressional district (this depends on the political divisions of a given city or territory and the strength of the Party) must be built. Wherever it is impossible to build the Party on the basis of political divisions, then sections should be built according to the needs of the Party, with the aim of improving the daily guidance so necessary to the branches and units.

For Greater Initiative

These few questions, so vital for solving the problem of our Party's growth, call for a real democratization of

the life of the Party units. In some places this democratization has been misconstrued to mean laxity in activities, laxity in dues payments and attendance. This is not a correct understanding of the meaning of democracy in our Party. Democracy in our Party means more education, more and better discussions, the right of Party members to ask questions and the right to get answers which will clarify things that are obscure and not clearly understood. This will result in the Party becoming strengthened ideologically and, consequently, better mobilized in its activities. It means the right of the units to ask for assistance, and, what is very important, to exercise their own initiative in applying Party policies to their particular situation and tasks; to decide on the work to be performed, and convince every unit member of the necessity of participating actively, not only in helping to shape policies, but to carry these policies into life through proper assignments.

Democracy in our Party means the voluntary acceptance of certain obligations, in the fulfilment of which there are developed that unity of will and unity of action which really make it possible for our Party to give leadership to the masses. The discipline of our Party is also part of our inner Party democracy, because it is not an imposed discipline, but is a discipline that we accept the moment we join the Party, the moment we make up our minds to fight for the Party program, for the realization of the ultimate aims of the working class. Our duties are not imposed, but are the natural outgrowth of Communist political understanding.

We must abandon the method whereby the unit bureaus work out policies and assign tasks, so that at the unit meetings we are confronted only with a discussion on the assignments. Certainly the unit bureaus must prepare the agenda, must prepare proposals, and take into consideration the abilities and possibilities of individual members to carry through assignments. But one of the main tasks of the unit bureaus is to get the unit to discuss these proposals, to improve upon them and amend them if

necessary, so that the central point in the discussion shall be the working out of policies, and not the assignments. The moment the unit members understand the correctness of a certain policy, and the necessity of carrying out a given task, the discussion on assignments, as proposed by the unit bureaus, will be reduced to a minimum.

More Guidance by Leading Committees

We shall solve the above problems if the leading committees of the Party follow the example of the California and Seattle districts, which were convinced that it was not enough merely to discover what was wrong, but proceeded to take measures to solve some of the basic political organizational problems. Concretely, it means that in those districts where recruiting is poor, and the Party is not moving forward, the leading comrades themselves will have to go into branches and shop units to help, to teach, to get the units to make the necessary changes in the composition of the unit bureaus, in the selection of competent membership directors, financial secretaries, and other offices; to work out a better system to improve the attendance and dues payments.

Good political results cannot be measured only by the influence that the Party is gaining or on the basis of success in the legislative and other fields, if these results are not accompanied by the subsequent growth of the Party.

The recruiting power of the Party organizations, the status of dues payments, is the best barometer by which to judge the extent to which the organization is active and politically alert. In those districts and sections where the barometer is low, the leading committees must get to work at once, not to discover the causes (which are already known), but to eliminate these causes by properly concentrating all possible energy on two or three key organizational questions. In the present period, when the masses are in motion, when the masses are seeking guidance and are abandoning their prejudices against our Party, there can be no excuse for slackness in our activities to build the Party.

The Recruiting Drive in Western Pennsylvania

By MARTIN YOUNG, PITTSBURGH

THE Western Pennsylvania district of our Party recruited a total of 442 new members during the entire month of September and the first 20 days of October. Out of these 442 new members, 35½ per cent are miners and steel workers (68 steel workers and 89 miners). We recruited more miners than steel workers, although we have more forces in steel than in mining. This is due mainly to a changing situation in the relationship between the Party and the miners' union. In the local elections in the union, in the recent strike in the captive mines, and above all in the political campaigns in the county and municipal elections, our Party played a role which succeeded in winning to our side many of the people who have long been connected with the struggles conducted by the National Miners' Union.

We also succeeded in involving new people in mining to participate in the drive. Because of revived activity in the units, we succeeded in recruiting 89 miners, some of whom were former Party members. But there are many hundreds of former Party members who have not yet returned to our ranks.

Only 99 out of a membership of fifteen to sixteen hundred, which we had prior to September, have participated in the recruiting drive. This in itself indicates an organizational weakness in the preparation for the campaign. By September, we had more than 300 steel workers in the Party, but the majority of them are not yet involved in the recruiting drive. We know definitely of certain important steel regions where the recruiting of steel workers has not yet been taken up seriously.

Bright Spots in the Party Building Drive

There are, however, certain bright spots in the drive.

For example, in Johnstown, in spite of the defeat of the strike, the recruiting drive is progressing. In McKeesport, the Communist Party is established; we are in the political campaign. Some outstanding people in the community are members of the Party. Pittsburgh to date has recruited 205 new members, which is particularly encouraging. We are well on the way to establishing the Party in this center of our district.

During the month of September, we recruited many housewives. This is a good sign of our work among women. The significant thing is that these women are wives of miners and steel workers, and they will be of tremendous help in the development of the recruiting drive in these strategic regions.

Problems of Organization

Now as to problems of organization. In the Pittsburgh district, we really have not yet tackled Party organization seriously and systematically. This explains the weakness in our dues payments. We do not as yet have functioning county committees, section committees, unit bureaus. In order to keep what we have already obtained, in order to march forward, all the organizational problems must be solved in a systematic way. Otherwise, we will find ourselves in tremendous difficulties, for it is not the first time we have recruited many new members in Pittsburgh but have not succeeded in keeping them in our ranks.

We can say that politically the Party is making progress from the point of view of becoming involved in mass movements, in political campaigns and in exerting definite influence in advancing independent political action of labor. In many important mining and steel territories, the Party is looked upon with great respect because it is actually involved in solving complicated problems facing the labor movement. This was manifested especially in the municipal elections, where in 21 industrial communities, the labor and progressive candidates won out as against the official Democratic machine.

We helped to set into motion wide strata of the working class. But unless we now develop our Party organization, we may find ourselves in the position where the Party will be unable to consolidate what we have gained, and play a role in the struggles of the working class.

Educating Our Trade Union Forces

The recruiting drive has revealed to us the necessity of undertaking a most thorough campaign for the education of our trade union forces, so that they may fully understand the role of our Party. There is the danger that some of these comrades may fall into the erroneous conception that the trade union movement can solve all the problems of the working class. We realize that this is especially dangerous precisely because of the political awakening of the masses and their reaction to political problems. Many of our comrades who are leading in trade union work are new in the Party, which explains their lack of clarity on some issues. These problems require very close political guidance and personal contact with the active Party forces in the trade unions. In this way, the Party will be assured of more rapid growth.

We have also the problem of developing more boldly our approach to those militant progressive workers who are still within the Democratic Party. In Western Pennsylvania, with the exception of the City of Pittsburgh itself, the labor movement is head over heels in politics. In the mining and steel towns, the broadest discussions are developing within the ranks of the workers as to the program of President Roosevelt, as to the responsibilities resting with the workers themselves to make clear their support of progressive measures. The masses are keenly interested in social legislation, and the organized trade union movement is holding local conferences with Congressmen to find out their position with respect to progressive measures of the administration.

Our Party must and can become a real driving force in the movement for progressive legislation if every unit, every fraction in the trade union, in every community and

city, will take the initiative in formulating and organizing the demands of the masses. Such leadership on our part will help to establish the "citizenship" of our Party in the political scene in Pennsylvania.

We have many new trade union forces in our Party in Western Pennsylvania from the steel and mining industries. By our mass political work, we must create such a situation that they will be able to function openly in the Communist Party. In this way, we are confident that a Party of 5,000 members in Western Pennsylvania can be built.

Register the Party Membership! Make It 100 Per Cent in Your Branch!

By ORGANIZATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION, C. C.

DIRECTIVES and material for the January, 1938, registration, are now in possession of all districts.

We appeal to all individual members of our Party to participate actively in the registration in their branches. While it is true that an effective registration demands leadership by the membership commissions from the districts down to the branches, it is necessary that every Party member give active assistance, without which a 100 per cent registration of the Party membership will be extremely difficult to attain.

In this January, 1938, registration, let us aim not only to register the active members, but to bring inactive members back into Party life and work, and to retain those comrades who are on the verge of dropping out of the Party because of non-payment of dues over a long period of time. The Party needs every Communist! Let not one be lost!

The expansion and development of mass work in economic and political struggles require a strong Communist Party with tens of thousands of men and women carrying the program and policies of our Party into the shops and factories, the trade unions and other mass organizations. The rising progressive mass movements place grave responsibilities of leadership and guidance upon our Party which make all the more urgent a rapid growth in our ranks and an activization of our forces.

Every branch must, therefore, have as its goal: *not to lose a single member, to register every individual member on the branch roles and to make special efforts to register the new comrades who have joined recently and who may not have yet been assimilated.*

Here is how individual comrades can help to achieve a successful registration:

1. Volunteer as registrars, or registration captains, or as a member of a committee to visit inactive comrades and get them to register.

2. Visit all the comrades you have recruited into the Party during the past year, and make sure that they register.

3. Make sure that all your friends and relatives who are Party members pay up their dues and register.

4. If you belong to a mass organization where you know the Party members, either through fraction meetings or by individual contact with these comrades urge them to register, explaining to them the political significance of dues payments and registration.

5. Attend your branch meetings regularly, so that you may help to improve its life and work and thus encourage all members to attend.

Comrade, your cooperation will make possible a full registration of our Party members. The registration for 1937 should show a large increase in our membership over that of 1936. With your aid, this will be achieved.

Building the Party in the New England District

By H. G., BOSTON, MASS.

THE Party Building Drive in New England coincided with the attack upon our Party by the commission appointed by the Massachusetts State Legislature to investigate so-called "subversive activities."

The Party has been engaged in a battle to maintain its legal existence, meeting the full force of reaction. This fight overshadowed everything, occupied most of the Party's time and to some extent affected various phases of activity.

Our Party Carries On

Despite this, the campaign for Mayor in Boston by Otis Hood, Chairman of our New England district, was fairly well conducted. Radio broadcasts, leaflets, dozens of speaking engagements, including one at the Schoolmen's Association of Six Hundred Catholic School Teachers added to the prestige of the Party. Being ruled off the ballot for an alleged lack of sufficient signatures made it difficult to gauge the growing strength of the Party.

The attack of the Red-baiters found the Party prepared. On the whole, there was no "Red scare." Branch and open meetings of the Party were held regularly; Party members and sympathizers attended the hearings in the State House; funds were raised. The loyalty and self-sacrifice of the Party membership were clearly demonstrated. The attacks upon our Party by the commission, instead of causing wavering, on the contrary stiffened the resistance of the comrades. The Party learned a great lesson on the forms that local reaction assumes.

The program of the Party was made clear to tens of thousands. Through the radio, through the hearings in which Earl Browder, Phil Frankfeld and other Communists spoke, through protest meetings which crowded

big halls, through leaflets and good newspaper write-ups, the role of the Party as the party of democracy and socialism, as a force to be reckoned with, became more and more widely known.

This, however, was the result of work done primarily on top. The entire Party felt keenly about the investigation, followed it, discussed it; but the branches depended entirely upon the district, carried through primarily those tasks that were of a district character, and did not carry through independent activity. This was true of the election campaign, where most of the work was centralized in Boston on the Otis Hood campaign, and where the branches, though active, did not localize it in their communities. This also held true for the many cities in Massachusetts where elections for mayor and other officials took place.

Recruiting in Our District

Our State Convention in September made the Party conscious of the need of recruiting in the course of building the People's Front in New England. This, however, was not followed through consistently. There was some tendency to let the investigation interfere with the drive in certain places; some comrades in the trade unions and the language organization adopted the policy of watchful waiting, aiding the Party in many ways but forgetting Party building.

In September and October we had 209 new recruits, or more than double the previous monthly rate. Of these 37 came from the textile industry, 20 were seamen and 17 were shoe-workers, or about one-third coming from our three main points of concentration. One hundred and seventeen were members of trade unions, 51 were women. The average age of the recruits was 30. This number is far below the possibilities that exist for recruiting, although it is a good start.

Certain requirement of the investigation interfered with the rapid and systematic mobilization of the whole Party. It was necessary at the beginning for many of the leading

comrades who were to be called as witnesses to be present in Boston for many days, to stay away from important centers of work (New Bedford, Lawrence, Worcester). It is only now that all leading comrades are throwing themselves into the full center of Party activities in the concentration points, and aiding in mobilizing the entire Party for the drive.

A Committee of Party Builders

The expansion of the drive to January is extremely advantageous to New England. A committee of over 50 Party builders, those pledging to recruit three or more, has already been set up with the goal of a committee of 100 comrades. Response has come from Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The splendid convention of the Party held recently in Rhode Island has spurred Party building. The comrades in the language field who were not heard from the first six weeks of the drive have finally swung into action, have arranged recruiting meetings, set quotas and issued challenges. The trade union sphere is still weak and step are being taken to bring the drive home here—the most important phase of our work. November will leave the other months far behind.

Experiences have shown tendencies to push into the background the independent role of the Party. For example, one of the best branches of the Party in Boston played an important part in a ward election, through the work of some individual Party members. However, while it is true the branch learned a great deal and held regular discussions on neighborhood problems, it still did not hold meetings, or issue leaflets, or arrange election rallies in its own name. The branch has recruited twelve people. A broadening of the work, independent activity, active leadership on neighborhood problems, can easily lead to a doubling of the branch. This branch typifies the general weaknesses of all the others.

The Recruiting of Negro Workers

One of the weak points in New England has been the recruiting of Negro workers. Only eight have been re-

cruited so far. To remedy this the district decided to make a member of the State Committee personally responsible for the proper functioning of the South End branch in Boston, which meets in the Negro section. This branch met with Comrade Grecht, secretary of the National Recruiting Drive Commission, at a regular meeting where 25 were present. That meeting, rich in discussion and comradely interchange of experience, prepared for an open meeting the next week. At this meeting, addressed by Comrade Frankfeld, sixty-five were present, five new members joined, refreshments were served, and the spirit of great enthusiasm was crystallized into action. Weeks of solid work by the branch bureau produced the best branch meeting in years. This branch, challenging every other one in the District, and beginning to arrange independent meetings, promises to break down once and for all the barrier that has prevented us in the past from bringing Negro workers into the Party.

The comrades in the trade unions are, as a whole, active in union work. But building the Party is not yet in the forefront of their activities. Among a few comrades in the shoe and textile industries, a tendency has developed to the effect that because of the slack season and the slowing down of union activities, it is difficult, if not impossible, to recruit. This theory falls flat when we compare the one shoe worker recruited in Boston with the 12 recruited in Lewiston-Auburn, where conditions are far worse. A meeting of the various industrial branches to take up this question is now being arranged.

Party Building Plan of Work

The District Committee has decided on the following steps, among others, to develop a real drive:

1. To make permanent assignments of leading forces to outlying Party branches in the district.
2. To re-establish an organizational-educational committee, checking upon recruiting, dues payments, the inner-branch life, the functioning of unit bureaus, educational activities, and other problems.

3. To make activities around a program for social legislation, and the proposed united front state conference on social legislation, the spearhead for Party building.

4. To take special steps to draw in the trade union comrades and build shop nuclei.

5. To pay maximum attention to the branches to help initiate independent activities, Party branch mass meetings, and the issuance of leaflets to explain the elections, the investigation, and other basic issues.

6. To hold meetings of "Builders" in separate areas.

7. To call an organizational conference in December.

The mood of the membership, the sentiment aroused by the investigation, and the increased determination of our District Committee to build the Party—all show that New England will come out well at the end of the recruiting drive.

For a Campaign Against the High Cost of Living

By ORGANIZATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION, C. C.

AN INCREASE of prices on the most essential food-stuff is sweeping the country. The increase of prices on articles of consumption has been followed by increases in rents, and increases in the prices of building materials which will affect the already meager construction program. Such a situation, at a time when the organized masses are demanding the stabilization of wages and hours, when layoffs are taking place in a number of very important industries, is alarming to the toiling population not only of the cities, but also of the rural communities, who are already beginning to feel the restrictions of the market.

Reactionary forces are spreading propaganda that the

increase in prices is due to increased wages. Chambers of Commerce are working to get Congressmen to vote against the Wages and Hours Bill at the special session of Congress on the pretext that prices will be artificially increased if the Bill goes through. They must be answered by widespread, organized, mass actions.

A Campaign Against the High Cost of Living

While it is true that spontaneous movements against the high cost of living are developing here and there, under the initiative of women's organizations, *the immediate problem before our Party is to launch a powerful campaign that will mobilize the toiling people of the city and countryside—a campaign that must be developed on a local and state scale, at the same time that forces are set in motion nationally.*

The main issues and demands in the campaign must be made clear, and the broadest actions developed around them. These are, principally:

1. That the purchasing power of the masses be increased through adequate wages and hours legislation by the federal government.

2. That federal and state administrations investigate the sharks controlling the most essential articles of consumption; that a legislative investigation be ordered of the meat packers, of the bread and milk trusts; that there be federal regulation of high prices of food stuffs.

3. That the municipalities be pressed to establish municipal milk stations, buying milk directly from the farmers and selling it to the consumer.

Such a campaign against the high cost of living in every city should be brought to the workers in the shops, in the trade unions, to the people in all neighborhood communities. Such a campaign should unite for common action workers and varied middle class elements. It should stimulate activity in rural areas.

This places a great responsibility upon all Party organizations—in particular, the branches, shop and industrial units. A drive against the high cost of living, to be effec-

tive, requires the mobilization of the Party membership for concrete activity. The lower Party organizations therefore become a major instrument for Party leadership in the campaign.

Work for Communist Branches and Units

What can our branches and units actually do? How can our comrades participate?

1. Call mass meetings in the neighborhood, special meetings of housewives, to rally the people generally.

2. Contact community organizations for the purpose of calling community conferences or in other ways setting up community consumers' committees to lead the fight against the high cost of living. This issue affects everyone so vitally that it can become a most effective instrument for united action.

3. Issue leaflets, special appeals to the population.

4. The street branches can issue neighborhood papers and bulletins. The shop and industrial units should take up this problem in their shop papers.

5. Mobilize mass organizations for independent as well as collective activity.

6. Spread the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker*, and other Party papers. Follow their lead in organizing activity for they will guide the campaign through editorials, through articles that will examine the effect of the increase of prices upon the standard of living of the masses, that will expose the vicious aims of the reactionary forces and the increasing profits of the trusts.

How can the campaign be developed? What methods shall be followed?

It is essential that the city, state, and federal officials be impressed strongly and boldly with the demands of the people that immediate action be taken against the rise in living costs, and to raise the purchasing power of the masses. The trusts that sap the very life out of the people by steadily increasing prices must be made to understand that the people will resist their unrestrained profiteering.

Work in Trade Unions and Mass Organizations

Our Party comrades in the trade unions, farm organizations, women's auxiliaries, housewives' organizations, and all other types of organizations must make efforts to mobilize these organizations to pass resolutions demanding federal regulation of high living costs, a legislative investigation as outlined above, and prompt action by Congress to pass the Wages and Hours Bill.

Consumers' committees, representatives of mass organizations, should visit the local councilmen, the state assemblymen, representatives and other officials, with demands for action. Committees should be sent to the city administrations. Wherever progressive elements are at the head of the city administrations through victories won by labor as in the last municipal elections, by Labor's Non-Partisan League, by the forces of progress generally, there special effort must be made that the city administrations, acting on the mandate given them by the people locally, shall themselves demand prompt action from the state and federal authorities along the lines proposed here.

Picketing of the food trusts by women should be organized. Around the fight against high milk prices it is possible to enlist parent-and-teacher organizations, women's trade union auxiliaries, and other organizations.

Open hearings should be held in the neighborhoods, where people can testify as to living conditions, the effect upon their family of the rising cost in the necessities of life, the inadequacy of the family budget to meet this rise.

Through every possible form of agitation and propaganda, involve not only organizations and committees, but hundreds of thousands of individuals to write directly to their congressmen on federal action, to write to the local and state representatives from their communities.

Let the representatives in city, state, and federal government feel the mass pressure of the people back home, the men and women in their constituencies upon whom the burden of rising living costs falls directly. Let the people's demand for legislative action strike hard in all legislative chambers!

Our Party Must Take the Lead

All of these proposals can be carried through; none of them are too difficult to realize. *It is up to our Party to take the lead! It is up to our Party members to be in the forefront of this campaign. It is up to our branches and units to take up this issue immediately with energy and concrete activities.*

The campaign against the high cost of living gives us the opportunity to bring the Party to the forefront. The masses will see again and again that our Party has the welfare of the masses at heart. It will give us an opportunity to come in contact with millions. It will give us an opportunity to connect the campaign against the high cost of living with other vital issues. It will help to develop the political consciousness of the people. In this way we will win new supporters, and will have greater opportunities to increase the membership of our Party.

A Branch Reviews a Year's Work

By HELEN LEONARD, RHODE ISLAND

SINCE the last Rhode Island State Convention held in October, 1936, the South Providence Branch has made progress in increasing its membership and in organizational efficiency. This was due mainly to the active and conscientious participation of its members in all Party mobilizations. For example, the election meeting arranged for Earl Browder in November, 1936, was unusually successful because of the wholehearted efforts of our membership to publicize the mass meeting through house-to-house canvassing with leaflets, tickets, literature.

In December of 1936, the seamen's strike was a real challenge to the Communist integrity of our branch membership. During this struggle every member gave the utmost of his time and energy to collecting food, clothing

and money. The women comrades set up a relief kitchen; the men comrades arranged to have shoes repaired in various shops, and the unit as a whole gave every possible support and encouragement to the strikers. The reward of this spirited cooperation was *five marine workers recruited into the Communist Party*.

The marine strike gave our branch an impetus to participate in the industrial field and in trade union organization. With the Textile Workers Organizing Committee of the C.I.O. coming to Rhode Island, our whole branch apparatus was set into motion. Four comrades were definitely assigned to go out as volunteer organizers two nights a week for over three months. They visited the hitherto unorganized textile workers, explaining the importance of trade unionism so effectively that besides signing up most of those approached, they have merited the praises of the executive of the Rhode Island Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

Building the Party in Our Branch

In behalf of Spanish democracy and the Lincoln Battalion our branch has been active in bringing the heroic struggle of the Spanish people before the Rhode Island working class. The united front campaign instituted by the North American Committee, the fight for the right to show the picture *Spain in Flames*, the mass meetings—all have received our membership's full cooperation.

At the end of August, through the hard work of two comrades, we succeeded in getting the Winter Street Church for a Scottsboro meeting. Comrade Ann Burlak, our State Secretary, spoke, and we have demonstrated our Party's solidarity with the Negro people by having a full branch attendance. Many of our pamphlets dealing with problems of the Negro people were sold that night.

We have had three major literature mobilizations during the past year. First, an anti-Hearst campaign through the pamphlet *Hearst, Vilest Racketeer of All*, of which 700 copies were sold by our branch membership. In December, we launched an anti-Coughlin campaign and

sold 500 pamphlets exposing the fascist tendencies of the Coughlin movement; finally in August we concentrated on Comrade Browder's *The Communists in the People's Front* and sold approximately fifty copies, together with some thirty copies of *Who Are the Reds*.

We are working hard to build the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker*. During the spring *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker* drive, our branch solicited five new subscriptions, renewed old ones and added many new readers to our carrier route lists. Two comrades in the branch sold between 25 and 30 copies of the *Sunday Worker* weekly, and almost every comrade went out with papers at least once a month. On the average we sold 50 copies of the *Sunday Worker* weekly, during the past year.

When the present National Recruiting Drive began, our branch members became very enthusiastic and decided to try to double the membership of our branch. We succeeded in recruiting seven Negro comrades, made possible especially by the untiring efforts of two members of our branch, who for months have concentrated upon selling and distributing the *Sunday Worker* among the Negro population. We also recruited seven others, making a total of fourteen new members.

We have also worked hard to fulfill our financial quota for the *Daily Worker* drive.

We are confident that our branch will continue to progress and that we will be able to become a strong Communist force in our community.

Root the Branches in Community Life!

By REBECCA GRECHT

FOLLOWING the Ninth Convention of our Party, there was a general reorganization of the territorial branches in the districts to bring them into public view, to root them in community life so that they become more responsive to the needs of the people, to develop their

political activity on the basis of concrete leadership in struggles for these needs.

It is well to review some phases of branch life and work, for it is clear that a large number of our branches do not yet function in this manner.

It is true that especially during the past year, despite numerous weaknesses in our methods of work and inner organization, our branches have developed considerably as political factors in cities and neighborhoods, as active participants in the organization and struggles of the masses. We have seen this in the C.I.O. organization drives, in the campaign for defense of Spanish democracy, in the election campaign, to cite a few examples.

Where, then, lies the weakness? Largely in the failure of many branches to strive to understand and react to local community problems in city or section; to establish close contact with neighborhood mass organizations; to connect themselves intimately with the people around them precisely through leadership on community issues.

Branches tend to react much more quickly to issues of broad national and international significance, than to those affecting the immediate interests of the people in their territory. Certainly the general struggle against reaction and fascism, and for the People's Front, the fight for peace, the campaign for adequate social legislation, profoundly affect the life of every individual in our country. We should plan not less, but much more, activity around such questions.

But it is true that while masses who are not yet class conscious or actively involved in progressive political movements may not be so quick to see the need for their participation in the general struggles affecting the people as a whole, large numbers may be more readily involved in immediate struggles on such issues as housing, the high cost of living, relief needs, medical aid, increased educational and recreational facilities.

United Actions Around Neighborhood Issues

Community organizations which might not participate

jointly with us on general issues can be won over for united action around such neighborhood issues. For example, there are branches which have been able to involve Catholic churches in their neighborhoods to cooperate with the Communists on such issues as the need for playgrounds, whereas these same churches have fought our policy on support for Spanish democracy. Or take the example of the branch in New York City which began to penetrate effectively among Italian masses, under the domination of fascist leaders, by raising the issue of housing—a vital problem in the community. Through united activity around such questions, the people will learn through their own experience and struggle in the community the need for broadening the united front movement, and the role of the Communists in this movement. The People's Front will appear not as an abstraction, but as a necessity for the improvement of their conditions and the winning of a better and happier life.

To achieve effective results even issues of state or national significance should be directly related to the problems of the workers and middle class people in a given city, or section of the city. The general line of policy of the Central Committee and the state committees must be applied very concretely, with an understanding of the composition of the population in the particular community, the industries, the special needs, the level of political development of the masses, the relationship of forces.

Recently the writer spent a week in a district in which the political prestige and influence of our Party are definitely advancing among broad sections of the population. In one city, where especially good work had been done under the able leadership of the city organizer to consolidate the Party organization, recruit individual workers, and assist in building the local C.I.O. union—in all the leaflets which had been issued since May First and in practically all the mass meetings held (and there had been a number of these), there was no mention of any specific problems facing the people of that city, or any specific

proposal around which to rally them for concrete action. The branch might have functioned in any other industrial city of similar character, and the leaflets could have been issued by a hundred other branches in scattered parts of the country. Yet the possibilities are there for rooting the Party as a political force in the city, and thus greatly increasing the Party membership.

The comrades are aware of this weakness and are determined to solve it. That is the healthy sign. Without doubt hundreds of other branches are in a similar situation, and need to orientate themselves more directly on the life of their own town or city, their ward or assembly or congressional district. In this way, the masses will come to look upon our Party as really *their* party, not as a political abstraction, but as an organization living their life, concerned with their problems, giving leadership to struggle for their immediate needs.

The questions dealt with here affect not only the territorial branches of our Party. Industrial branches and shop units are similarly concerned, if they are to function as political bodies of our Party. We could cite one example: the tremendous role that mine units can play in the mining communities in their struggles for better housing, educational and recreational facilities, to name but a few issues. Certainly such activity would greatly improve the position of our Party in the coal mining towns, and the influence of our members in their local unions.

Developing Initiative of Lower Bodies

One of the reasons for the inability of many branches to become decisive political forces in their communities can be found in their failure to develop their own initiative. This also affects section committees, which very often operate simply as agencies to transmit directives from higher committees. To concretize these directives effectively, and develop activities on local issues—these demand that branch executives and section committees acquaint themselves fully with the needs of their city and community, so that they may be in a position to know how

to place questions before the people. It demands the encouragement and exercise of the widest initiative in the lower organizations.

This is not a simple problem, especially with the influx of thousands of new members into the Party, who must be taught how the Party functions. Its solution depends largely on the kind of guidance given to the branches by the leading committees. It requires among other things that leading, experienced comrades be assigned to give direct, personal guidance to branches and sections; that special training of branch functionaries be undertaken in a systematic way.

We raise this particular problem of the functioning of branches at this time, not because it is especially new but because the general situation on the industrial and political front demands that more energetic efforts be made to solve it. *Let us hear from branches and section committees as to how this problem is being met; what experiences you have gained in the task of rooting yourselves in your communities, your cities. Let us stimulate discussion in the branches so that these basic organizations of our Party learn how to become leading political forces in their communities.*

Strengthen Our Mass Agitation During the Special Session of Congress

By A. LANDY

DURING the next six weeks the attention of the entire country will be focused on the special session of Congress. The five-point program outlined by President Roosevelt in calling this session involves the vital interests of the overwhelming majority of our people. Even before the opening of the special session, the Tories launched a

nationwide campaign to block the will of the people. Hoping to repeat at this session what they succeeded in doing at the last session they have organized a campaign of economic sabotage of New Deal measures. They have called all forces into play to prevent the passage of the Wages and Hours Bill, to defeat vital labor and farm legislation, and to force the government to make drastic cuts in relief, public works and farm aid, while securing the repeal of the capital gains and corporate surplus taxes.

Mass layoffs are being piled on top of the unbearable high cost of living and the threat of a new economic crisis is held over the heads of the masses. Together with these economic measures, the monopolists have been mobilizing all their political resources. The reactionary forces from both Republican and Democratic parties in Congress have been prepared for the offensive. Everything is being done to defeat the people's mandate.

In this situation the whole Party must turn its attention to this question. The lesson of the first session of the 75th Congress, during which Roosevelt took up the fight against the Supreme Court, must not be lost. The masses must make their pressure felt and their voices heard in the halls of Congress. This is vital to defeat the reactionaries and avert disastrous consequences. The absence of such mass pressure during the first session left the road open for the success of the Tories in blocking the passage of the legislation demanded by the people.

The trade unions, farm organizations and progressive groups organized in a common front can enforce their will at the special session. But our Party must and can give leadership in this struggle. The initiative which our Party displayed during the first session must now be increased a hundred-fold. It has the responsibility of coming forward immediately in its own name, bringing the slogan of independent mass pressure and action into every neighborhood, into the shops and trade unions, into various organizations, calling into play every means of mass agitation and encouraging the most diverse forms of organized mass

struggle in connection with the special session of Congress. The situation calls for the display of a really great initiative on the part of every branch, unit, fraction and committee of the Party.

What Your Branch Can Do

Every branch should immediately set into motion *a six-week plan of intense mass agitation*, based upon the slogans advanced in the *Daily Worker* and relating them to the concrete situation in the neighborhood, community or city. Such a plan should include:

1. Organization of one or two open hearings, centering around the high cost of living, layoffs, curtailment of relief, high rents, etc., at which resolutions are adopted and forwarded to the respective Congressman as the mandate which the neighborhood masses expect him to fight for in Congress.

2. Organization of a post-card campaign for the same purpose, in such a way that the *whole* neighborhood is involved in the sending of penny cards to the Congressman.

3. Introduction and adoption of resolutions in the various neighborhood organizations to be forwarded to the respective Congressmen.

4. Organization of delegations from clubs, societies and other organizations to local councilmen, or city council demanding action on the high cost of living, layoffs, etc., and a memorial to Congress.

5. Organization of a campaign of letters to the local press.

6. A leaflet a week, or at least every two weeks to be issued by the branch, and better still, a regular neighborhood paper to be initiated as the voice of this campaign.

7. A neighborhood mass meeting in the name of the Party, coupled with a series of smaller house meetings, which can be organized by individual members of the branch.

The Trade Union's Part in this Campaign

The shop and industrial units should initiate a similar

six-week program, with the aim of reaching the workers in the shops and unions. Our shop papers especially must be made into effective instruments in this campaign and the number of papers immediately increased. *It must be remembered that during the first session of Congress the trade unions did not exercise any appreciable pressure. It is of the utmost importance that this time they make themselves heard, through resolutions, etc.* The example of the unions in parts of Pennsylvania, where they called in their Congressmen and *told them* what they expect of them in the present session, should be popularized and followed.

The activities of the branches should be supported by similar activities on a county, city and section scale. City-wide meetings, neighborhood meetings and above all a planned use of the radio during this period are absolutely essential. *The districts, counties or cities should plan to go on the air at least two or three times during the duration of the special session.* The whole Party can be readily involved to raise the necessary radio fund. But in addition to this, it is necessary immediately to overhaul the *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Worker* apparatus so that the most effective distribution of our press is guaranteed.

The Central Committee is preparing a series of four one-penny pamphlets for mass distribution which will be available during the next few weeks. The first two deal with the high cost of living and the tasks before the 75th Congress. These should be ordered at once by every branch for circulation by the thousands.

By coming forward now openly and decisively among the widest masses, the Party will not only fulfil its responsibilities in rallying the progressive masses of the country, but it will be able to strengthen its own ranks and carry the recruiting drive to a successful conclusion.

Educational Practice in the New Jersey District

By BILL REICH, DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

IN COMPLIANCE with the decisions of the June plenum, the District Committee of New Jersey last July elected an educational commission of five members. This commission has attempted, with some degree of success, to stimulate and systematize Party educational work in the state. The work attempted by the commission can be roughly divided into the following categories: improvement of unit discussions; organization of classes for new members, for active Party members and for the general public; and stimulating education in mass organizations.

Unit Discussions

The most effective way of raising the political understanding of the membership as a whole is through worthwhile discussions at unit meetings. In carrying through a uniform and systematic program for unit discussions we encountered two chief obstacles:

1. Lack of time for adequate analysis of the topic after a long drawn-out business session.
2. Lack of capable discussion leaders.

The first, an organizational problem, has been overcome in many units through a more efficient functioning of the unit bureau. The second is being overcome through conscientious attention to the development of a corps of capable leaders and by providing them with suitable discussion material. Detailed outlines with readings on the topics to be discussed are prepared semi-monthly by the educational commission and sent to unit discussion leaders.

Many units have found Comrade Bittelman's "Review of the Month" which appears in *The Communist* to provide an excellent basis for discussion. In the larger sections, discussion leaders meet with the educational director to sift the topic and the best methods of presentation thor-

oughly before presenting it to the units. The method most commonly used is that of a thirty minute presentation by the leader, followed by questions and general discussion. Variety is introduced through the use of panel discussions, skits and dialogues, contests (Professor Quiz), true-false and multiple choice tests, and by securing outside speakers occasionally.

New Members' Classes and Advanced Classes for Party Members

Practically all sections and most of the unattached units are conducting classes for new members. This type of educational activity is especially imperative at this time due to the influx of hundreds of people into the Party as a result of the recruiting campaign. Such classes are in the nature of orientation courses, familiarizing students with the aims, structure and methods of work of the Party. In most cases, the six-lesson outline for new-members' classes issued by the Org-Ed Commission of the Central Committee is being used with modifications to fit the local situation.

In Essex County (Newark) new members' classes are conducted continuously, all recruits being assigned to a "new members' unit" for the first six weeks of their life in the Party, after which they are assigned to the unit or branch where they can function most effectively. Two such units have been organized—one for recruits who have had considerable schooling and reading, the other for those with comparatively little previous schooling. In addition to studying the aims, structure and functioning of the Party, students in the new members' classes are given small assignments such as distributing literature and meeting with fractions, thus combining theory with practice.

In his speech on "Mastering Bolshevism," Comrade Stalin points to the necessity for the "ideological re-equipment and political improvement" of active Party members. In the current emphasis on recruiting and training of new members there may be a tendency to neglect the systematic training of older members. The educational commission has encouraged the enrollment of Party members in regular classes in Marxism-Leninism. We have also

tried two experiments for training active Party members:

1. A concentrated two-week training course (in Paterson), comrades being relieved of all other duties in order to attend the course;

2. A series of ten weekly lessons on Party theory (in Newark).

The chief aim of such courses is to stimulate further reading and theoretical development on the part of the students. The ten-week course was found to be more effective since it provided ample time for reading and digesting the assigned material. The educational commission is planning to experiment with a district training school to be conducted during several consecutive week-ends.

Classes for the Public

Due to concentration on other phases of educational activity, little has been accomplished in the way of classes for the general public. However, several classes for trade unionists have been organized and we are preparing to open a Workers' School in Newark in the near future on a very modest scale. Forums are also being planned in most of the larger centers and in several small communities.

In New Jersey we have attempted to make all trade-union comrades "education conscious," to stimulate them to realize their responsibility to see that educational committees are elected and suitable educational, recreational and social programs are launched and carried to successful completion in their unions.

In our educational work we have attempted to avoid the pitfall of permitting educational procedure to become institutionalized, dry and sterile, something apart from day-to-day problems. We recognize that separate educational classes and institutions are only a means of making practice more effective. It is in the day-to-day contact in the shops, in the unions, in the neighborhoods and in the streets that every comrade becomes a teacher and the most important lessons are learned.

New York State Section

ISSUED BY NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY

New York State Reports

By CARL A. BRISTEL, PARTY BUILDING FUND DRIVE DIRECTOR

ELEVEN weeks ago the New York State Party entered a three-month campaign to raise a Party Building campaign chest of nearly a quarter of a million dollars—*"to put life into the decisions of the June Plenum!"*

The entire conception of the drive was unprecedented in the history of our Party. For the first time we were thinking in terms of a Party building fund drive—not a *Daily Worker* drive or a drive to put our Party on the air during an election campaign, but a financial drive to encompass *all* of the needs of our organizations, to provide funds for an expanded *Daily Worker*, for an extensive election campaign, for training schools nationally, and on a state, county and section scale, and for a program of intensive concentration work among the Negro people.

The raising of \$240,000 did not present itself as the central problem in the drive. At least this amount had been raised in the various drives conducted by the New York organizations last year! Our task was unique only in the sense that we had to compress within a short period of three months all of our money-raising activities for the year. In short, we were engaged in a drive to end all fund drives for a year. To make this possible, the substantial sum of \$80,000 was earmarked for the units, sections and counties to help defray their current expenses.

Objectives of State Committee

In a statement issued at the inception of the drive to all Party bureaus and fraction secretaries, the State Committee defined its objectives as follows:

"In the swiftly maturing progressive movements in the United States today, our Party faces historic tasks. It must provide the theoretical and practical leadership—it must blaze the trail—for every movement of the workers for their immediate demands."

With this statement of the drive's objectives, our Party stripped for action. The first few weeks were devoted to inner mobilization; the political background of the drive was discussed, careful consideration was given to fund-raising methods and long-range plans. Quotas were discussed and assigned in turn to counties, sections and units, not on the basis of membership alone, but also on the known ability and resources of these organizations as demonstrated in past campaigns. Commissions were set up in every Party organization to guide the course of the drive.

The Party Gets Into Action

Dime coin cards for the collection of "a dime a day for Party Building" were presented as a novel money-raising method. Books, radios, and special Party Builder pins were offered as prizes to drive champions. Banquets in honor of the best fund collectors were announced in Harlem, Bronx, and Kings Counties. Harlem issued a challenge to Bronx County, Kings County threw down the gauntlet to New York County, and sections and units became embroiled in a series of challenges and counter-challenges. The I.W.O. and the Progressive Women's Councils announced their endorsement of the *Daily Worker* aspect of the drive and set themselves quotas of \$14,000 and \$1,500 respectively.

So firmly has our Party merged itself with the people, in the trade unions, the fraternal organizations, the community clubs, etc., that in spite of all shortcomings, both in approach and organization, the sum of \$110,000 has been raised by the New York State Party *in a period of eleven weeks!* A major accomplishment when compared with \$81,000 raised in eighteen weeks last year! Its significance is reduced somewhat, however, when we find that

only seven or eight thousand out of our state membership of 24,000 have participated in the drive thus far; and that we still face the task of raising an additional sum of \$130,000 to complete the quota of \$240,000.

"But now it can be done!" Even in the most lagging counties, the cry, "We'll never do it," has been drowned out by the triumphant: "It is being done."

Section 29 Shows the Way

In New York County, we have the sterling example set by Section 29 on the Lower East Side which has already completed more than 60 per cent of its \$4,000 quota! Comprising a membership predominantly unemployed, this Section has hurdled all obstacles to lead the county in the financial drive!

How was this done? By no sleight-of-hand methods! From the very beginning of the drive the Section Council and Executive Committee planned the next steps week by week. Responsibility was not relegated to a special commission, but was divided among the leadership. Each member of the Executive Committee assumed responsibility for a different branch or unit and had to make *regular* reports on its progress. This has stimulated the sharpest socialist competition between these leaders, giving them special incentive for increased activity in the units and branches under their charge. Thus we have here a Section leadership actively engaged in developing mass work in the basic organizations of the Party. The success of Section 29 in the drive is due to the fact that the Party has rooted itself in the section's territory by leading the people's struggles for adequate housing and relief!

Fractions in four Workers Alliance branches have to date raised several hundred dollars by bringing home the role of the *Daily Worker* as a defender of the interests of the unemployed! It is noteworthy that Section 29 is outstanding not only in the financial drive but has recruited 130 in nine weeks, is first in New York County in dues payments, and has recorded substantial gains in *Daily Worker* sales and circulation!

The Counties Get Into Swing

In important Kings County, which is still on a low rung of the ladder in the drive, two sections have gone over 60 per cent of their quota. Section 7 (Upper Williamsburg), with a population existing mainly on city relief and WPA, has forged to the lead of the county due to the intensive efforts of its section executive committee, led by Sadie Doran, the organizer, and a drive champion herself. A drive commission was established at the very start and has functioned consistently and effectively, checking on the progress of the drive, bolstering up the weak spots and planning the next steps.

By dint of personal contact and frequent visits of leading comrades to units and branches, it was found possible to activize a large number of members in trade unions and mass organizations. This is best exemplified in the work of the bakers' unit which raised over 80 per cent of its quota and increased its membership from 30 to 64, a gain of 112 per cent, through the enthusiastic work of the membership and especially through the leadership of three comrades, officials in the union.

On the Brooklyn waterfront, the drive is in full swing. The best work is being done by the longshore unit which has accounted for 118 per cent of its \$100 quota. The longshore concentration unit has produced \$210 out of a \$250 quota. This money has come from friendly seamen and longshoremen who appreciate the real services contributed by our Party during the recent Brooklyn shipyard strike.

In Queens the 1st Assembly District has topped its quota of \$1,100 and adopted a new quota of \$1,750. This was done through the intensive neighborhood work of a street branch, and the splendid mass work performed by the retail clerks industrial unit and the railroad concentration unit. The clerks collected their funds in the stores from their customers, and the railroad unit of seven comrades not only completed their quota of \$250 but recruited *eight Negro workers in the Sunnyside yards!* Inactive

comrades were visited at home by the Assembly District leaders—a practice which is succeeding in involving increasing numbers in the drive.

"Now It Can Be Done"

These few examples of "Now It Can Be Done" can be duplicated by active sections even in lagging counties, and good units in slow-moving sections. This point serves to prove that the New York State Party has hardly begun to scratch the surface of its money-raising possibilities in the Empire state.

The lesson we have learned is that the key to a successful drive lies in the extensive activization of the full Party membership in genuine mass work for our fund raising. When sympathizers of the Party were approached for financial assistance to our Party's activities, as in cases cited above, they gave freely and gladly. Similarly, where our fractions in the trade unions, the I.W.O., the Women's Councils, the Workers Alliance and other community organizations carried the drive into these organizations openly, and in an organized manner, there was no difficulty in raising funds.

Our Party, working at 25 per cent capacity, has been able to raise \$110,000 in eleven weeks! Is it fantastic then to assume that it is possible to complete our quota of \$240,000 once we have succeeded in involving our 24,000 members (which includes 3,000 new members recruited in the last two months) in the campaign?

"A Day's Pay for the Party"

We must accept the inescapable truth that the raising of funds for our Party needs is a high political task—a vital and inseparable part of the central job of Party building! Every member must possess that sense of pride and feeling of power that comes only with the realization of our Party's great and growing influence among the American people. In the process of drawing our full membership into active participation in the campaign, it will become possible successfully to realize our main slogan of this

phase of the drive—"A Day's Pay for the Party Building Drive from every Member." Only a politicalized membership—one that fully understands the role and perspectives of our Party—will be prepared to make a sacrifice so that we may proceed with our Party's program of guiding and solidifying the emerging People's Front movements in New York State.

Our New York State Party will not rest until the total quota of \$240,000 has been raised! Every dollar of this amount has been earmarked for mandatory immediate needs. Our failure to carry the drive to a successful conclusion will seriously curtail our increasingly widespread program of activity. The aim of the *Daily Worker* of becoming a major metropolitan newspaper will be thwarted. Drastic curtailment of our training school program of equipping new leaders for service to the people's movements of progress may result. Our effectiveness among the Negro people will be hindered!

It is for this reason that the New York State Committee has extended the period of the drive to Lenin Memorial Day, January 21. A weekly average of \$13,000 for ten weeks that remain before the deadline will insure the success of the drive and the most ambitious program in our Party's history!

"I Am a Striker"

By STEVE FRANKLIN, SECTION 7, BROOKLYN*

COMRADES, I am a striker!

I worked in one place in Brooklyn for over a year and a half. My job was chief cook and counterman for \$24 a week, 6½ days, 10 hours and more a day. Some of the

* Report made at the New York State Party Builders Congress, Nov. 14, 1937.

other workers there are getting \$10 and \$12 for a 12 to 13 hour day.

After working in the place for a year I began to talk to the workers to organize. Finally, I thought I had them convinced. Eight weeks ago I had them ready to take down to Local 325. That was on a Wednesday. I waited Wednesday at 5 o'clock for them, but they did not show up. The next day I was kicked out and the boss told me I was fired for union activities.

I went to the local and explained what had happened and the organizer went down with me to speak to the boss. He asked him to take me back and to recognize the union. The boss refused, so we put a picket line in front of the place. I walked up and down from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. that day. The next day I was there at 6 o'clock and I walked until 10. That went on for the whole week, and I was getting very little help in picketing. The boss was losing about 60 per cent of his business. But he was stubborn.

I said: Well, I will give you another week. The following week my help from the local was even less.

But one day a lady stopped me on the picket line and asked me if I needed help. I did not know the lady. I thanked her for offering me help and I passed it by. Three days later the same lady stopped my brother and asked him where the other gentleman was. That day the business agent brought one man to help me for only one hour all day. The lady spoke to the business agent, but he passed her by. I got the lady's name. She is Sadie Doran, (Branch organizer). That same night another man—I know now he is my *brother*, he is my comrade Joe Stern—said to me: "Why don't you come up to us at 88 Sumner Avenue and we will give you help. So I went over the next night and asked for help. At the same time they promised me they would give me help. They organized help and I was happy.

A week later I went up to the meeting. I began to feel different. They asked me to join the Party. So I asked: "Is that all I have to do—you ask me and I can join?"

They said yes, so an application was filled out and I signed it and a few days later I got my book and a transfer to the food workers' unit.

Two weeks ago Friday, we organized a big mass picket line from the 6th A.D. and we gave the boss all he wanted. We had speakers, and a boy who was in Spain spoke. We gave the boss plenty. During my first two weeks down there I thought I would never come another step on the picket line. But after I joined the Communist Party and I saw what I had behind me, I will never give up that line.

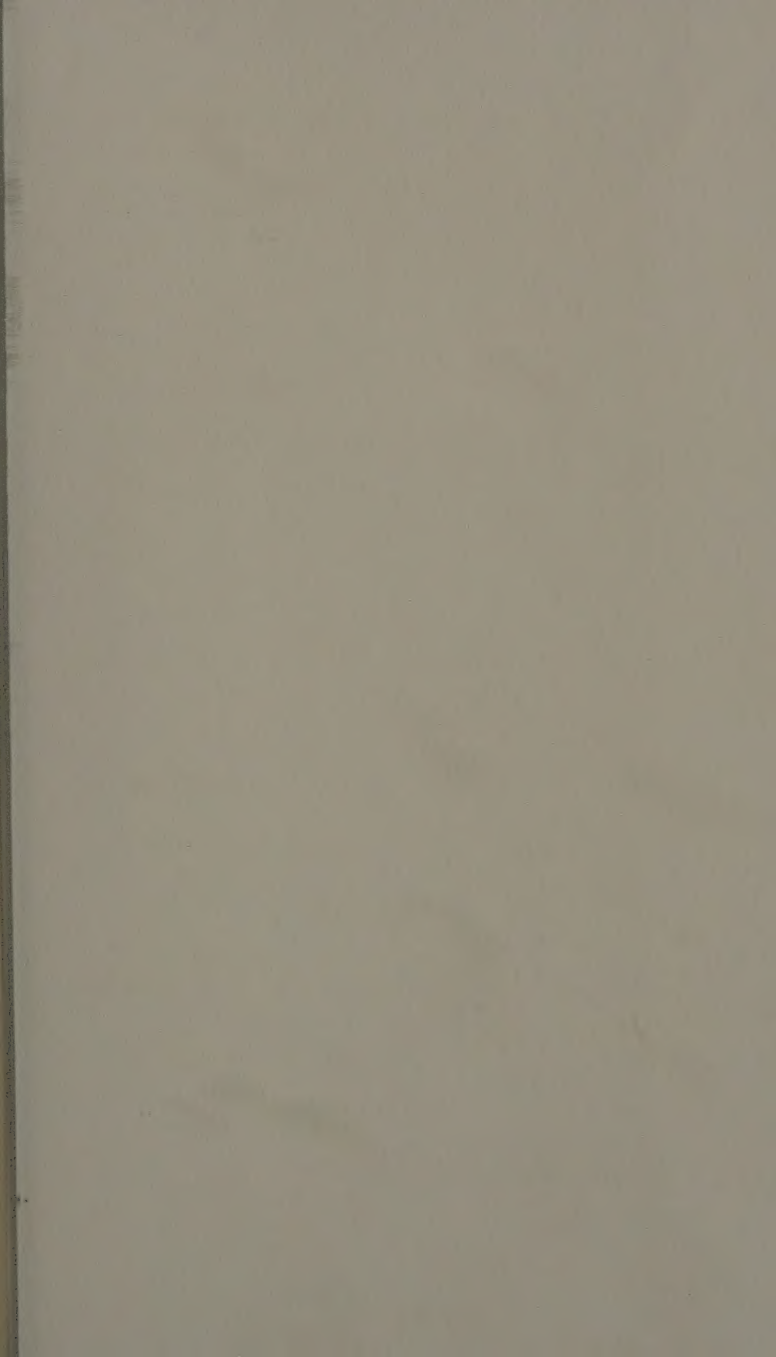
In the house where I live there is an engineer and his wife. Many times we have spoken together about Communism. He is a marine engineer. Last week he told me he always wanted to join the Party. I said: "You would like to join the Party? I can take you in. I am a Communist myself."

He said: "Don't I have to go through anything else?"

I said: "You can come with me."

So last Friday night I brought this new party, husband and wife, my wife, my own brother and I have two more from the food workers to take to our meeting.

I want to tell you this. After I joined the Communist Party I am like a tiger. I am going to fight!



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