

Fighting Functionaries—the Need of the Hour

By I. AMTER.

THE masses, since the expulsion of the rotten elements from our midst, have felt a new pulsating life, a quicker response to the demands of the sharpening class struggle on the part of the Communist Party. They see the Party fighting on all fields that touch the life of the worker, his wife and family. They see the Party becoming the real leader of the masses in the struggle against the capitalists, and the capitalist government.

This they note also in the investigation of the Fish Committee, which explicitly explains that it is not investigating "socialism, radicalism, pacifism," but only Communism. Correct! But there is nothing to investigate; the Communist Party declares openly, as it did in the statement read before the Fish Committee by Comrade Foster that it fights for the interests of the unemployed, the part-time worker, the worker who still has a job but has to accept wage cuts, the Negro, foreign-born, young and woman worker, the working class child. It fights against the coming imperialist war and for the defense of the Soviet Union.

What limits the work of the Party, however, is the crying need of fighting Communist functionaries. Yes, the Party has made or is rapidly making the turn. What hampers it is particularly the lack of functionaries to lead the Party membership along the line of new methods and as a united body to lead the working class into the militant struggle. Functionaries—functionaries—everywhere the demand—and the Party itself must supply them.

The districts are developing whatever forces they can—but this is far from sufficient. The Central Committee last year provided a National Training School, at which about 30 comrades were

sion of the Congress of the U. S. A., at the same time when the police gassed 500 delegates that represented 300,000 organized workers that protested against all discriminatory bills pending in Congress.

This command of Hoover's was picked up by the newly appointed secretary of the department

given a training for the struggle, and this merely emphasized the need of functionaries. This year, the Central Committee is arranging a three-months Training School for about 75 students, who must help to supply the great dearth of functionaries. These comrades must be active comrades from the shops and mines, comrades who must be given a better training, so that they will be equipped for work on their return to their shop or mine, or be taken over entirely for Party work; comrades who will fill the gaps in the Party organization, in the field of the West and South, in the unions, mass organizations, etc.

The units and sections of the Party must immediately begin to select the comrades to be recommended to the districts. They must propose young, promising material, comrades who have made or are making the turn, comrades with initiative, with a deep sense of responsibility, comrades active in the unions.

But one more feature must be remembered: The training of these comrades must be made the business of the masses of workers. The mass organizations—unions, clubs, fraternal lodges, etc.—must accept a responsibility in financing the students. They must be made part of the organization that is giving the 75 workers this revolutionary training. Workers Educational Conferences must be held in every district, and ways and means be worked out to finance the students.

This is one of the most important tasks confronting the revolutionary movement, and there is no doubt that the revolutionary workers and organizations will do their part.