

Let the Masses Know Our Party

by F. BROWN

THERE is today tremendous enthusiasm among the leading Party forces for our recruiting campaign. The problem before us is to transmit this enthusiasm to the tens of thousands of Party members in all districts. We will succeed in this task if the recruiting drive will be really organized. This means: if the recruiting commissions will function properly; if the leading comrades will go to the lower organizations of the Party, assisting them with advice and concrete guidance; if we will be able to organize our forces that are active in the trade unions, our forces active in the fraternal organizations, active in other fields.

But more than that. The recruiting drive will be successful to the extent that we will be able to raise our agitation and propaganda to a higher level. This means that during the recruiting drive we must utilize to the fullest extent the *Daily Worker*, the *Sunday Worker*, the language press, all the magazines under the influence of the Party which bring the Party program before the masses. We must make better use of the radio, and especially of the hundreds of shop papers. Here in the shop papers we have

a powerful instrument at our disposal. Through them we can reach hundreds of thousands in the shops, in the unions, in the neighborhoods. The problem is how to utilize this loud speaker to make it tell its message, to bring before the masses our program—our immediate program and ultimate aims.

I think that from now on we must realize that to go to the masses it is not necessary to be perfect, skilful orators or writers. I think that each one of our members should be able to bring before the masses our program and aims, and convince them with simple arguments.

We can remind them of the bitter misery of millions of unemployed during the Hoover administration, and how it was our Party which raised the slogans of adequate relief, of unemployment and social insurance, organizing demonstrations, playing a leading role in marches to Washington and in developing the mass pressure which forced the government to grant relief.

Today, we are confronted with a powerful C.I.O. movement for industrial unionism. It is a known fact that our Party gave this movement its fullest support from the beginning. We have done so not only because we fully understand the economic significance of industrial unionism, for which we have campaigned for years, but because we know the tremendous value of powerful industrial unions in the struggle against the reactionary forces and fascism, because we understand the role of the C.I.O. as one of the most powerful bulwarks for the preservation of democracy. It is for this reason that so many of our comrades, with no ulterior motives, gave their best to help build such a powerful movement. And their tireless work is today appreciated by the masses.

This is another argument that we must bring before the people to prove that our interests are not different from theirs. But there are many more such arguments, as, for example, the position of our Party at the time of the 1936 Presidential election campaign, when we demanded the defeat of the Republican-Liberty League combination. Certainly the Party was one of the factors in

allying the American masses to defeat the American Tories. We should explain this to the masses.

Today, everywhere, progressive movements are springing up. And everyone who is honest knows that our Party has contributed to the development of these movements, that our Party already for the last two years agitated and acted for the building of a People's Front. For we know what a powerful instrument the People's Front is for the maintenance of democracy, for the defeat of fascism and reaction. The examples of France and Spain are the best proof. Our comrades everywhere are demonstrating how strong we are in defense of democracy, menaced by fascism, how our words are followed by deeds. Surely this is being exemplified in the heroic struggle of hundreds of American, French and other Communists on the anti-fascist battlefield in Spain.

Comrades, we have nothing to hide. Our books are open, our deeds speak for our sincerity. The main question is to make known our position to the broadest masses, to answer the slanderous campaigns of our enemies with arguments that are supported by facts, by our daily work.

I am more than confident that our recruiting drive will be successful if we will keep constantly in mind the political and organizational role that our Party must play to bring about the defeat of fascism, of the black forces of reaction.

You know that the reactionaries and the fascist forces are very aggressive everywhere. Spain has been invaded by Italian and German fascist bands. China is being invaded by Japanese militarists. The reactionaries are trying again to gather strength in this country as well. We must not forget what happened in Congress, the defeat and mutilation of bills and measures by which the masses would have benefited.

While we are discussing and planning how to build the Communist Party, the reactionaries are actively plotting against the democratic forces of our country. Under the very nose of the government, the Nazis are gathering and drilling in thousands, agents of the Nazi Intelligence Service operate freely. If the authorities would make it

their business really to investigate, they would find something that would alarm the whole country. Who does not know that the Nazis are preparing an army in our land that the Italian fascists, the Greek fascists, the White guardists are part and parcel of the Nazi movement; that these fascist forces are crystallizing, preparing, working hand in hand with the Liberty Leaguers, with the reactionary forces in our country?

We, the Communists, must be alert and vigilant, and influence labor to stand on guard. We must be more and more active, we must build the Party into a mass Party because we know the role that our Party will have to play in bringing about unity of all the progressive forces, which is a prerequisite to defeat the forces of reaction. We must realize and keep in mind all the time that our Party has a historic mission to perform. Whether the progressive forces or the reactionaries will win in the United States will depend a great deal on the growth and activities of our Party.