

SIMPLIFY THE WORK OF THE UNITS

By GIL GREEN.

The League today is involved in a number of very important mass struggles. The League is faced with the tremendous task of organizing the youth in the struggle for unemployment insurance and for immediate relief. It is faced with the problem of penetrating the factories and building the revolutionary unions and youth sections. The League must intensify all of its activity in the struggle against imperialist war, especially in the armed forces. The League must deepen the struggle of the children for their immediate needs and through this build a mass children's movement. The League must give leadership in the struggle against the 1932 Olympics.

If we are to carry through the above struggles, we must activate every member of the League, must make every unit "a political leader of the young workers." This means that we must simplify all of our work, draw more comrades into responsibility, and learn how to coordinate all of our various activi-

ties into one plan for winning the youth.

How is this to be done?

Less Inner Meetings.

First, we must begin to radically cut down our large number of inner meetings. Everywhere we hear comrades complaining of "meetings, meetings, meetings." In our larger cities when a young worker enters our ranks he is immediately "activated" by being placed on a committee. He becomes so swallowed up with inner meetings, that he separates himself from all his former friends. In a few weeks he usually is once more outside our ranks.

We must simplify the work of our units. Instead of unit bureaus of 7 and 9 comrades, we must have unit bureaus of 3 or 5. In a unit of 15, or less members the bureau should have three members, in no unit more than 5. In a small unit the bureau of three should be composed of an organizer, agitprop and secretary (financial and recording). In the larger units, with a bureau of five, we can add two other functionaries based on the local needs. One of these can be a Pioneer Director. In

an important Negro section we can add a Negro director, or in a unit near an important naval or military base it can be an anti-director.

It is to have in our units directors for every field of work. The result usually is that everybody has a title and meetings, but there is little work. Proof? Look at our units today! In New York for example, the latest fad is a unit "unemployed director." The hope is through this added functionary to begin to do unemployed work. What nonsense!

The comrades will ask, "How otherwise can we do all this work?" This must be answered. The unit organizer together with the bureau must be a real leadership. They must direct the work of the entire unit. They must check up on the work in shop, in the mass organizations, in the armories, among the Negro youth, etc.

Every Comrade a Simple Task.

Instead of giving comrades titles, we must change our entire system of distributing work. Instead of only technical assignments for distributing leaflets, selling papers, Red Sundays, etc., we must give every comrade a political task. This task

must be ONE SIMPLE TASK AMONG THE YOUNG WORKERS. This task must be his major task for the unit. In most cases it should be his ONLY task.

The unit must distribute its work in accordance with its special local problems and its forces. Comrades working in important factories should be assigned to work among their shop mates as their main job for the unit. These comrades should have their evenings off, so that they can go out with their shop mates, become acquainted with them, and win them for our movement.

One or two comrades who like athletics can be assigned to some sport club as their major task. They should be given time to work within the organization, prove their leadership, accept office, make personal friends, and win them for the LSU and our League.

If the unit is concentrating on one factory, a few comrades should be assigned as a shock troop to work at this factory from the outside. These comrades should, however, be released from other work. They should try to make friends with some young workers from the

plant, go to the neighborhood in which these workers live, go to pool rooms, dances, churches, wherever the young workers from this plant can be reached.

One or more comrades can be assigned for work among the children. This should be their major work and they should be given ample time to really assume leadership of the children in that territory.

Comrades who are members of unions, either revolutionary or reactionary, should be assigned as their major work the work in these unions. This work should be checked up by the unit bureau.

A number of comrades who are unemployed or students, can be assigned as their major task to work among the unemployed youth. These comrades must mingle among the unemployed youth during the day, must help build block committees, take leadership in the councils, etc.

The comrades in our League who go to school must not be hounded by the unit, but must also be given

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definite responsibility. They can be assigned to a club, to concentrate on a factory, to do unemployed work, to do children's work, and a few of them can be assigned to carry on work in their schools as their schools as their major task. Of course, small units must concentrate their forces on only the most important fields.

If every comrade is given one simple task among the young workers, and given time in which to develop this work, we would have League units with mass contacts and work. This method would also help to develop the individual initiative of the comrades, make them think. Of course, the unit buro must check up, help and control the work of every comrade.

How to Co-ordinate Our Work.

But then we come to another question. How are we going to concentrate on certain campaigns, build up the YOUNG WORKER, and many other things necessary for a well functioning unit? The answer is simple. We must learn to co-ordinate and harness all of our various activities into one unified program, into one whole. This is the job of the unit buro.

Today, our major campaign is the struggle for unemployment relief and social insurance. This struggle is not separate and different from the other daily work of the unit. On the contrary. This struggle will only succeed through an intensification of all of our daily activity.

The unit buro must take up with

the comrades working among the unemployed youth how to organize block committees, how to work in bread lines, what concrete demands to raise, etc. The comrades in clubs must be assigned to get delegates for the conference and affiliate to the neighborhood council. The comrades working among the children must develop the fight for free food and clothing and also organize children's groups attached to the block committees. Comrades in the "Y" or National Guard must raise certain demands in these organizations, and must win over the rank and file for our struggle. Comrades working at important factories must link up the struggle in the plant with that of the unemployed. Those in reactionary unions must have resolutions for unemployment insurance introduced. They must get their shopmates or union members to attend the youth hearings, come to the demonstrations, and fight against lay-offs. In this way, the unit buro directs the work of all of the comrades in their respective fields with one single purpose.

Through the unemployed struggle the League unit must recruit young workers for the YCL. This means that each individual comrade is assigned the task to win one or more young workers from his outside work for the League. We want to build the YOUNG WORKER in this struggle. This means that the buro takes up with each comrade the spreading of the YOUNG WORKER in his club, armory, shop, unemployed committee, school or wherever he carries on his work.

In this way the unit learns to

co-ordinate its work and lead the struggle on all fronts. The buro becomes a real leadership and directs the work of every comrade. The comrades begin to think in terms of mass work. The unit begins to become a political leader of the youth. It has connections with the youth. The unit meetings begin to have political content. The entire character of the League begins to change.

Only a Step.

There must be no conception that by applying the above method we will solve all our basic problems. It is only a step in the direction of breaking the sectarianism of our units and making them turn towards the young workers. We must watch against mechanical application of the above. We must remember that every unit has its own specific problems. In large cities the problem is different than in small towns. In industrial regions the problem is different than in agricultural areas. We must be flexible and discuss every unit concretely.

In districts like New York, we will have to begin changing our units into real street nuclei based on where comrades live. All comrades must think of how to change the work of their unit. We must develop a real discussion in the units. We must study carefully the reasons for the large fluctuation. We must do away with bureaucratic methods. We must arouse our membership to the necessity of turning out among the young workers. Only by shaking up the League at its base—the units, will we be able to lead the present struggles.