

Party Federation Spokesmen Discuss Industrial Problems

By ABRAM JAKIRA

A second meeting of secretaries, editors and industrial organizers of the Language Federations with representatives of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party (for report on first meeting of last week's "WORKER") was held Wednesday, Oct. 3. The meeting was devoted entirely to the industrial problems now facing the party. The C. E. C. was represented by Comrades Earl Browder and Abram Jakira.

A review of the situation showed the party to be in a very favorable position for Communist work in the trade unions, and that the Language Federations of the party have a very important task to perform. This is true especially in regards to the basic industries where the workers are mainly foreign born and very favorably disposed towards Communist ideas and to the Communist movement. About 50 per cent of the social organ of our Italian Federation, for instance, with a circulation of about 10,000, is being distributed among the coal miners alone. The efforts which the language federations were making during the last year have produced marked results. Due to these efforts a large portion of our language comrades have joined unions and are now taking an active part and a keen interest in the trade union movement of this country. This effort of the federations must not slacken. It must continue with even greater strength now, when the tasks of the party become greater and greater and when the reactionary bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor is in open alliance with the capitalists and the Department of Justice against everything that is progressive in the labor movement.

Special efforts must be made by the federations to utilize the favorable situation that has developed in the labor movement to recruit new members into the party. There can be no doubt that many of our federations can increase their present membership many fold with but a slight effort on their part. Every federation speaker or organizer must pay special attention to this problem.

An industrial registration of the party membership was started some time ago. The results, due to a number of reasons, have been far from satisfactory. Yet, the importance for the party to secure the correct data about its members in the trade unions can hardly be overestimated. The representatives of the federations pledged themselves to co-operate with the C. E. C. to have the industrial registration completed without any further delay.

The question of helping to increase the circulation of the Labor Herald, official organ of the Trade Union Educational League, was given special attention. It was suggested that the language papers of the party publish every month a review of the contents of that splendid magazine and that language comrades be urged to order copies of the Labor Herald for distribution among the English-speaking workers.

It was pointed out that the reactionaries of the A. F. of L. are trying to discredit the radicals in this country by waging a most vicious attack thru numerous lies and insinuations against the trade union movement of Soviet Russia. Two pamphlets dealing with the real facts about the Russian trade unions were published recently by the Friends of Soviet Russia and by the Trade Union Educational League. It is of vital importance that these two splendid pamphlets be given the widest possible circulation. Many federations will have them translated into their own languages.

The industrial department of the party is to supply the federation press with short articles dealing with the role of the foreign born workers in the American labor movement. The federation editors, in turn, are to make a special effort to write for the general party press and for the Labor Herald articles dealing with the experience of the foreign born workers. This would help considerably in the establishment of closer contact between the federations and the party generally.
