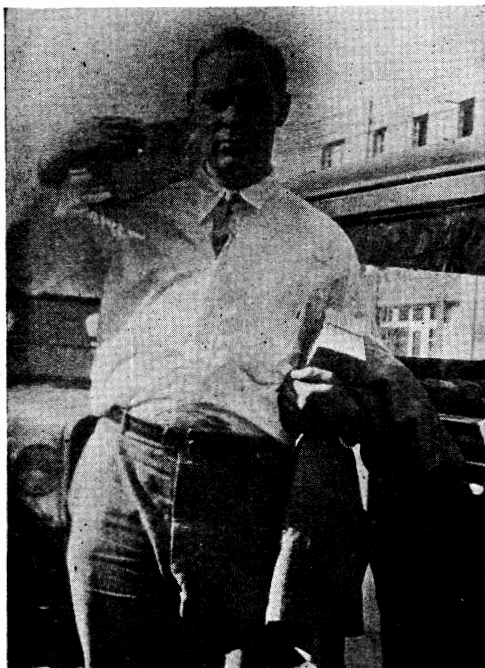


How to Form Defense Branches



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Beginning with the next issue, the Labor Defender will carry a special page dealing with organization problems of the International Labor Defense. The next issue will

By A. JAKIRA

contain an article dealing with the functions and activities of the branches. These articles are of special importance at this time when the I.L.D. is starting a campaign for 50,000 new members.—Editor.

The branch is the basic unit of the International Labor Defense. We will consider first how to organize a branch.

1. Interest a group of five or more in defense work, either in the place where you are employed—shop, factory, mill, mine, lumber camp, farm—or in the part of the city where you reside. Call a meeting of these prospective members.

2. At this meeting, the prospective members should sign an application blank which can be secured from the city or district office, or from the national office, at 80 E. 11th St., Room 402, New York. Each applicant should pay 25c initiation fee and at least one month's dues, to the amount of 15c. In addition to this \$1.00 should be raised for a charter.

3. Then proceed with the election of officers—secretary, financial secretary, Labor Defender and literature agent, and city central delegate those towns where there is a city central committee. After the election of officers decide when and where the branch will meet next.

4. Larger branches should elect an execu-

tive committee of between 5 and 7 members. The branch executive committee should consist of the main officers of the branch and such other officers who may be considered necessary for the work of the branch. The executive committee shall meet regularly prior to the regular meeting of the branch. Special meetings of the executive should be called when important and urgent problems come up which cannot wait for action until the regular membership meeting. For example, when it is necessary to arrange a special mass meeting on short notice, or when someone is arrested and must be taken care of immediately, etc.

5. It is very important that a definite day or date of the month be set for the meeting. (For example, every second and fourth Tuesday, or first and third Monday, etc.) This will help the members to get the habit of keeping these days open for the I. L. D. meeting. Branches should meet at least once a month.

6. If the time permits, at the first meeting, other problems may be taken up, such as the problem of getting in new members, the immediate work, the question of the Labor Defender, etc. Otherwise, all these question should be left for consideration to the next regular meeting.

7. After the meeting the secretary should report either to the city or to the district or national office, the names and addresses of the officers and should order a charter on a blank especially prepared for this purpose by the Nation Office. In this way, the branch establishes connections with the higher committees of the organization. Instructions will then be sent to the branch which will help it in its work and in the conduct of the next meeting.

Books