

Workers (Communist) Party

How Should Communists Organize Their Work?

By JAY LOVESTONE.

The past six months have seen a marked revival in the success our party has been meeting in establishing contact with non-Communist workers.

If anyone desires to consult the most accurate barometer of such progress, all he has to do is to examine the response which masses of non-Communist workers have given to our campaigns for the protection of the foreign born, the movement to save Sacco and Vanzetti from electrocution, the drive for relief and defense of the Passaic textile strikers, the widespread approval of the historic event launched by the New York furriers for a forty-hour week and in other instances of a similar character.

At this time it is entirely appropriate to consider certain fundamental questions involved in the party strategy and program in activities to make the Communist Party the leader of the masses in life.

What Is Party Work?

Broadly speaking, party work may be said to be those activities which advance the party's program, which push forth the interests of the working class. Often, the workers involved in such a movement, in such a struggle for the enhancement of their class interests, are not even conscious of the direction of the movement in which they are active participants and of which they are the very makers. Any activities the party participates in, influences in some measure, directs to some extent, and which bring the workers a step nearer to the left, a couple of pegs higher in the development of their class consciousness, is, in the largest sense of the word, Communist activity.

Surely those days are gone in our party when Communist activities are those which call for, and at best are translated into, abstract propaganda for the proletarian dictatorship, support for the social revolution, and so on.

Today we measure the results of our Communist activities and we determine the importance of the activities precisely by the extent to which they enable us to get masses into motion, to have masses move leftward—the extent to which we develop our influence over these masses and sink our roots among them.

How is the Party to "Cash In."

Some comrades raise a very pertinent question. What is the party to get out of its different activities? To put this question, or sometimes this complaint, more in the parlance of our every-day party functionary, it would read as follows: "Why should the party spend so much time and money and energy on these move-

ments? Why can't we "cash in" on them in some way? Why should we give over our organization and workers to these movements?" Of course, that is putting the problem in a very crude and obviously wrong way, but the problem of our party capitalizing organizationally its participation in big working class campaigns has yet to be solved effectively. We have for some time been working in a manner which has not at all enabled us to utilize sufficiently for the strengthening of our organization, for the winning of new members, the various political and other campaigns in which we have played an active or dominant part.

Specifically, there are three ways in which the party can "cash in" and usually does "cash in" thru its participation in campaigns or in organizations in which large masses of non-Communist workers are involved.

1. We have instances where the party achieves a specific end. Repetition has worn threadbare the axiomatic truth which is that the Communists have no interests other than the interests of the working class. Let us suppose the party succeeds in arousing enough workers for the support of the striking Passaic textile operatives. This is the achievement of a specific end which, considering all the objective conditions at hand is a victory for the Communists—is a victory for the workers as a class. We have in mind the state of disorganization in the ranks of the textile workers of this country. We have in mind that every blow struck for organizing the unorganized textile workers is a blow struck for better opportunities; and the Communists participate actively in and take the lead of all such movements which will advance the interests of the workers in the whole textile industry. We have in mind that the enhancement of the standard of living and social conditions of the textile workers is a step towards the strengthening of the demand for better living and working conditions of the whole working class, nor should we forget that the best way of convincing the workers, whether they be textile or other kinds of workers, that the Communists are

worthy of their trust and faith, to lead them, is in this every-day demonstration of our (participation) and courage.

2. Another method of the party's "cashing in" on these activities in non-party mass organizations or campaigns in which great numbers of non-party workers are involved, is to be found in the winning over of a certain base of operations for other campaigns than the particular one for the moment under consideration. For instance, we will find that Communists active in securing relief for the striking anthracite miners will in this fashion establish a base for subsequent participation and leadership in another progressive constructive movements among these miners. Party members who have won the confidence of the striking anthracite miners because of the efforts which they have put up to help the miners score a victory, will find that when they speak about the nationalization of the mines or the six-hour day, they will get much more of a hearing from these non-party miners because of previous activities. The more the party members do constructive class work in co-operation with non-party workers, the less the chasm between the Communists and the non-Communist workers will begin to feel faith in, and to act with, the Communists. The laws of sympathetic action hold at least as true in politics as in any other social relationship.

Furthermore, we will note that connections with non-party individuals established in one united front activity will serve considerably in the establishment of other united front campaigns.

3. The direct winning of new proletarian followers of our party and new membership of our party is a most important method of our party's "cashing in." Altogether too often we have belittled this task. We do not sufficiently appeal for membership at our meetings. We do not capitalize adequately the response which non-party workers give to some of our campaigns for the purpose of drawing these workers closer to us organizationally.

NEW YORK NUCLEI URGED TO ELECT DELEGATES FOR SECTION CONFERENCES

(Special to The Daily Worker)

NEW YORK—(By Mail)—The District Executive Committee has laid down the following rules for the holding of section conferences where the election of section committees and officers will take place.

These rules have been laid down by the District Executive Committee after a careful examination of the composition of the membership in every unit of every sub-section and has been agreed upon unanimously by the secretariat of the District Executive Committee.

These rules and the basis of representation hold only for this conference