

## On the Road to Power

# Communist Fractions Pave the Way

Building shop fractions is at the center of our party's activity. The Russian Revolution proved Marx and Lenin correct when they pointed out that the working class was the only revolutionary class—the only class capable of overthrowing the ruling class, and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat. This doesn't mean that the working class can make the revolution alone. It doesn't mean that the working class needs no allies among the students, intellectuals and other. But it does mean that these groups cannot make the revolution without the working class. And without the leadership and strength of the working class these other groups would have no revolutionary outlook—no revolutionary will.

One of the main lessons of the Russian Revolution, granted that there are many lessons to learn, is that communists who are serious about revolution need to have a vast base amongst the workers. However, this base cannot be merely an economic base, that is, a base built by only participating in and leading shop struggles and strikes. Having a communist base amongst workers means, in the first place, winning workers to the **need** for revolution. We must prove that endless reform struggle, in and of itself, won't solve the immediate problem, and by itself won't lead to revolution. So the chief job of communists is to introduce an **all-sided political approach** to workers, which in many cases goes **outside** the momentary boss-worker relationship. This in no way implies that we do not fully and aggressively participate in the reform struggles. It simply means that **limiting** the work to the reform struggle is futile.

Modern capitalism has far outstripped the development of capitalism in pre-revolutionary Russia. If at that time one of the main features in organizing for revolution was to base the work on shops—especially large shops—it goes triple today. This is true, not only for manufacturing enterprises, but for all sorts of service industries. This is particularly true in areas like, insurance, hospitals, etc. As a result of historical lessons and today's reality, our work, as much as possible, must be based on concentrating our forces around shops, especially the large ones. The key shops are in basic industry like steel and auto.

Our first job is to establish as many party clubs as possible in important work locations. One of the crucial jobs of a club is to **FOCUS** most of its efforts on getting to know as many workers on the job as possible. This means gearing our lives to the people who we are trying to win. It also means getting to know the issues in the shop, and becoming familiar with the various forces in the shop. It also helps to know something about the nature of the industry and shop you work in. This would include a wide spectrum of knowledge from production methods to profit making. But, above all, the club must be the **political center** for the party in the particular shop, and the **political nerve center** for the workers. This means that party shop clubs cannot simply be tactical centers for discussing how to fight grievances and organize for strikes. **The party club's first job is to figure out how it can grow.** It must discuss Marxist-Leninist questions. It should be able to summarize its tactical experiences so as to draw political conclusions from them, in order to chart the next steps.

The club should have a planned educational program which includes: dialectics, political economy, Lenin's **State and Revolution, What Is To Be Done** and other selected works. Some questions to be dealt with might be the politics of Economism vs. Politics of Revolution; what is a communist; what is the essential nature of a communist party; what is communist leadership; what is the dictatorship of the proletariat. We should follow and study PL literature on these questions. Naturally, there are many other questions, but communists need a good grasp of the science of Marxism-Leninism. Communist clubs must be able to participate in the day-to-day struggles of the workers, draw conclusions from them, and introduce communist ideas into the ranks of the working class **in order to win them to revolution!**

Without close communist ties to the working class, the party will inevitably sink into opportunism-

revisionism, and the working class will continue to suffer under the yoke of capitalism.

Consequently, **the primary job of party members in the shop is to build communist fractions which win workers close to the party and to revolution.** The aim of these fractions should be to eventually lead the workers in the shop **politically**, and to guide the day-to-day struggles into revolutionary action. Thus, the fractions would consist of the party club in the shop and **those other workers who would work directly with the party.** But, the fractions, as the party clubs, should **not** slip into only tactical matters. That is, fraction meetings should consider **political** questions as well as tactical questions. After all, the job of the party members is to broaden the political base of the party, as well as broadening the political outlook of as many workers as possible. The working class must be won from ruling class ideology, and to revolutionary action. And, in fact, if we don't win workers away from allegiance to capitalism, it will be harder to win them to take responsibility for leading on-the-job struggle.


The fraction, amongst other questions, should consider how to politicize in a general way amongst all workers. They can do this in a number of ways. Fractions can issue shop papers which can link the day-to-day issues to the need for revolution, always pointing out that the abuses now suffered under capitalism may be curbed for the moment, but that as long as capitalism exists, abuses are inevitable. The shop paper can **expose** particular bosses, the phony lies of the company, and can usually link union officials' betrayals to the oppression of the workers. Finally, the paper can use general political questions to expose and prove the system incapable

of solving the needs of workers. A couple of examples of this: The nature of the electoral system, using particular campaigns as an example; expose the function of foreign policy of the state.

The paper can explain racism as a key tool of the bosses to exploit and split workers.

Another thing the fraction can organize to win workers to the left is a constant barrage of leaflets, dealing with a variety of questions. These leaflets should be short. They should usually deal with one thing. And they should try to **tie it to the need to building the party and revolution.** The fraction should be the main arm of the party club for getting PL literature to as many workers as possible. We should always be trying to win our base to carry out party activities, especially selling **Challenge-Desafio.** Finally, the fraction should try to build party actions, like May Day. If we work correctly, the party should involve an ever-growing circle of forces who build the party, and join it. As the work proceeds, the fraction should be able to move most of the workers to the left by helping them draw the proper conclusions from real-life experiences. The fraction can help make the Party's line a **MASS** question in the shops.

Essentially fractions should be **shop** groups, not industry-wide or city-wide. While in some smaller Party areas it might be necessary to bring workers together from different shops to have a viable collective, even here Party members should not be part of the fraction **without** bringing a non-Party person to it. And the immediate goal must be a **shop** fraction of at least one Party member and one or two other non-Party workers. (To be continued).



## FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM IN THE AUTOPLANTS CRUSH RACISM! SHUT THE BIG 3 IN 76

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## Detroit: Auto

# 30 for 40 = More Jobs

DETROIT—When PLP members in the UAW fought to have —30 hours work for 40 hours pay—as the number one demand in the '73 contract fight, UAW boss Woodcock and his henchmen threw cold water on the idea as "pie in the sky." No sooner had the '73 sellout been signed, when the auto companies laid off nearly 250,000 workers in less than six months. The SUB pay (supplemental unemployment benefits) fund ran dry at GM and Chrysler. A hue and cry was raised about fighting for job security in the next contract. Now the "next contract" is here.

Again PLers are raising the demand for 30 for 40, along with uniting the workers by fighting racism in the plants. Without unity of minority and white workers, we can never win such a major advance as 30 for 40. This time Woodcock & Co. are hard-pressed to put down the 6-hour day at 8 hours pay as the way to press for more jobs. Instead, they're trying to side-track it by dreaming up gimmicks which cost the company nothing and do less to fight layoffs.

An example of the kind of "time-off" demands  
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