

## GUIDES TO BRANCH FORMATION AND CONDUCT

We start with the assumption that a Comrade, which is often the case in our present situation, or a very small number of Comrades, are attempting the task of establishing a unit of the Party, i.e. a Branch, in a new area.

The primary task is the study of the Party document from the Second Congress and The Worker. The former requires complete acceptance as demonstrated by its understanding and implementation.

The first practical activity will stem from this and probably involve selling the above material and inviting others to discuss it. In this respect it is important to involve friends and contacts in your place of work or study. It is important that each comrade begins personally in his own arena of struggle, whatever form that takes, and then extends the influence of the Party to embrace a wider arena, rather than attempting the reverse process, which does not work and will result in isolation and all its consequences. All Comrades should also be in their relevant Trade Union. With this process in motion it then becomes important to study the area; not as a geography exercise but in a political way, e.g. what industry is there and where is the mass resident or where does it congregate etc.

If it is felt that a public meeting is desirable and the comrade concerned wished to hold it on a more general topic, such as Albania or China, then the Party can assist in setting one up. In this case the comrade should endeavour to recruit the assistance of friends in this and certainly encourage them to attend.

In carrying out such practical activities the branch must never neglect study; both its own and the education of others, possibly in a study group, as a means of recruitment.

Regularity of Branch meetings is important as is the attendance of the branch membership.

While the importance of a branch genuinely developing out of a root in a locality has been stressed it is important to constantly combat the tendency to develop little 'mountain strongholds'. A branch is a unit of the Party not a talking shop for hermits and a democratic centralist relationship with the Party must always be maintained. In this respect the monthly branch



reports to the Centre are essential and branch representatives must endeavour to attend such things as Party schools.

In setting up a Party Branch the courage to do the necessary Party work in one's immediate area and to undertake such activity as selling 'The Worker' must be combined with the correct attitude towards doing the day-to-day drudgery. It is impermissible to run away from such work by attempting to do everything at once, which is impossible and means in practice doing nothing. In the same way, when endeavouring to recruit, one should not scour the country looking for so called 'politics' or professed revolutionaries and avoid concentrating on the mass of which you are a part. Don't go around picking up nuggets from the surface of a new goldfield and neglect to mine the rich seams underground.

Just as comrades must have individual courage, the branch as a whole must have the courage to act as a unit of the Party and not gravitate towards or become submerged in so-called broad fronts. Our Party, through the branches, must establish a correct relationship with our class and we are not concerned to take shelter from them under the umbrella of the political agents of the ruling class.

To illustrate what can be done - 3 case studies:

1. A comrade who had lived and worked in an area in the North all his life .... had many contacts on the 'political fringe' to whom he would sell the Worker .... never thought seriously about starting a local branch ..... read the article 'Revolutionary Spring' in 'Worker Struggle' and took up the call to our comrades to go and recruit the working class leaders.

Result: He went to these leaders, got a serious reception such as he had never had from the political riff-raff and is now building a branch in a key area.

2. A comrade, Glasgow born and bred but had been away for some years. Was in Glasgow when UCS workers took over. Singlehandedly distributed thousands of leaflets and papers. Made contact with Plessey leaders and received good reception plus an exclusive interview with them for the 'Worker'. Has placed the 'Worker' in many newsagents, set up a bookstall in the University and sells 80 papers per month.



3. A student comrade. Moved to Swansea for 1 year. In that period had recruited 6 new members, including a local shop steward, and formed a Branch.

With all the time and effort that has been, is being and will be expended in such work, it would be a crime against our class and its Party if it were to be carelessly thrown down the drain because comrades were 'too revolutionary' to concern themselves with money. The Party cannot function without it. The branch must take its responsibility in this respect seriously and function in an organised and regular way.

THUS:

1. Party Dues - 10p a week  
+ Those sums comrades can afford to guarantee every month.  
  
Send to P.Bose, 155 Fortess Road.  
Make cheques, postal orders payable to R.Birch.
2. Worker money  
Pay 'The Worker' 155 Fortess Road.  
Comrades are still encouraged to guarantee £1. per month.
3. Literature  
available to branches at 1/3rd discount, if they pay cash.  
  
Pay to - 'The Bellman Bookshop'