

early 1973

Gus--

Here are the statistics I got at the C.L. convention:

Total membership is 2500, of which 1300 are outside Paris.

There are 17 sections in Paris; they have members in 50 cities outside Paris.

Of the 2500, 32% are candidate members.

Only 4% were members of the old PCI; only 10% were members of the JCR.

Since their 2nd Congress they have recruited 800 new members (so evidently they have a high turnover, since I think the membership at 2nd Congress was 2300). Of these 800, 600 were recruited from other groups. Some of the main ones: 165 from the CP, 84 from CP youth, 45 from CP student groups, or a total of 284 from the Stalinist movt; 110 from the PSU; 30 from Maoists; 38 from Lutte Ouvriere; 22 from AJS; 31 from anarchists.

Average age is 23; 17% are ages 15-19; 2% are ages 35-50; only 1/2% are over 50 years old.

28% are women.

Of the membership: 31% are salaried workers  
38% are students  
6% are high school students  
21% are teachers (!)  
8% are wage workers

(I know that adds up to over 100%, but those are the figures they gave.) They said 65% of the membership was in one way or another linked to the national educational system.

Of the student membership: 58% are outside Paris  
35% are candidates  
41% are not doing student work (they were very proud of this, I think)  
There are 60 cells doing student work.

69% of the high school members are candidate members.

High school red circles involve 500-600 people, and 61 of these circles are outside Paris.

They have 8 teachers cells outside Paris and 6 in Paris; 31% of the teachers don't do teachers work.

They have 41 "mixed" cells (apparently this means students and/or teachers and some workers, doing workers work). They have 48 cells in vocational schools.

Of the salaried workers, 50% are in the public sector.

Of the ~~XXXXXX~~ workers, they said they have 1000 in the CGT, of whom 10% have posts of some sort; and 200 workers in the CFDT.

CL STATISTICS/2

(I assume that 1000 must include many salaried workers.)

They have 500 members in the FEN teachers union.

Their "Red Mole Groups" (workers) include 300 workers; 170 in the CGT and 130 in the CFDT.

They have at least 1 member in 275 factories.

They have 45 cells in factories, but they said of these only  $\frac{1}{2}$  have a "real implantation" in the factory.

In another 178 factories they have contacts.

Their organized sympathizers total 1500.

There was interesting discussion on their turnover problem. Roger said 90% of those who quit left in total agreement with CL's politics but were "tired." He said they must work out how to divide their time between internal activities and education on the one hand and activism on the other.

Sorry these figures aren't more complete, but they went through the specifics on workers, students, etc. very rapidly--and we weren't supposed to take notes! But I'm positive of the accuracy of the major items.

Andy

## French Communist League Holds Convention



Some of the participants at the third convention of the Ligue Communiste. Gathering adopted theses on building revolutionary Leninist party.

The third convention of the Ligue Communiste, French section of the Fourth International, was held in Versailles December 7-10.

"We have grown in numbers, in ability, and therefore in responsibility," reported the December 16 issue of the Ligue's weekly, *Rouge*. "From now on, it will not be enough to denounce the dead end toward which reformist paths inevitably lead. It is no longer enough to say that workers will not take power that way. We must be in a position to clear our own path—to build an effective instrument capable of resolving, in a revolutionary direction, the contradictions strangling capitalist society.

"The sense of the discussion on the twenty-two theses proposed to the convention was to build a revolutionary

party that does not settle down in society as it is now constituted, that does not develop into the left opposition of the left, and that can serve as the lever the masses need in order to get rid of the power of the bourgeoisie. . . .

". . . it is a question of building an organization that uses bourgeois legality without becoming its hostage, while remaining conscious of the fact that our relationship to the laws of the bourgeoisie is one of outlaws on reprieve."

The theses on building the party were adopted by a vote of 229 to 8 for the Bolshevik-Leninist tendency, 2 for a tendency centered in Dijon, and 34 abstentions.

Another focus of discussion at the convention was the upcoming elections (see following article).

There were 287 delegates to the convention; their average age was twenty-three. They represented 386 cells, 80 cities, and 18 sections of Paris. Of the delegates, 176 were workers, 100 students, and 11 high-school students.

*Rouge* reported that the Ligue Communiste today has a membership of 5,000, of whom 68% are full members and 32% are candidates. Workers make up 35% of the membership, and teachers and college and high-school students 65%. Women account for 30% of the membership. Since its last convention, it has increased its size by 32.5%.

The Ligue has cells or members in 270 factories and carries out regular propaganda activities at 180 others.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 copies of *Rouge* are sold each week. The organization has more than fifty full-time functionaries throughout the country.

Some thirty messages were sent to the convention from all over the world, many of them from other sections of the Fourth International. Personal greetings were also presented by representatives of a number of organizations, including the Revolutionary Communist League, Japanese section of the Fourth International, the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), and the United States Socialist Workers party. □

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