

NOVEMBER 1946 PLENUM
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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The following reports are supplementary to the "Report on the State of the Party" which appears in the PARTY BUILDER (Vol. I - No. 5). Because of the paper shortage, only a copy or two of these reports is being sent to each branch. Each branch organizer is requested to make certain that these reports are made available to all branch members and are circulated among them.

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NEWARK

Membership: 14 Fully active -- 9
Partially active -- 3
Inactive -- 2 (One on leave of absence; the other
a new member isolated in Jersey
City)

Social Composition: Factory workers -- 9
Other manual workers -- 3
White collar -- 2

Recruitment and turnover since convention:
Recruited -- 3
Reduced to sympathizer by P.C. -- 1
(V. Jensen)
Transferred into branch from out of town-
1

Trade union work and industrialization:

We have four comrades in a GM plant (plus one more -- laid off only temporarily, we hope). Time in plant on November 1st -- 4½ to 6½ months. One member was just elected steward, though still on probation. The faction has met regularly and will now begin more intensive work as probation period draws to a close.

All three recruits since the convention are factory workers, each isolated in a different plant. One is in the Western Electric Employees Association, one in a C.I.O. steel local, one in a non-union plant. Only the steel worker carries on real contact work in his shop and none of the three is active in union affairs.

The intensely industrial character of Newark makes all our work tie up with factories. For example, all but one of the students in a Negro class now being held are factory workers. Most subscribers in the housing projects are in shops. There is not a single large C.I.O. plant in Newark or its suburbs in which we don't have a half-dozen or more subs.

However, there is no further industrialization possible of the present branch members, so that the only way to get politicalized, experienced people inside any of these plants so that the contacts can be recruited and tied to the party far more effectively is through colonization of such comrades into Newark.

Functioning of executive and departments:

Executive consists of Berg, Organizer; Webb, educational director; Shaw, Treasurer. The organizer also takes direct charge of contact work, branch mobilizations, and work in Jersey City. There are individual comrades in the branch, not on the executive, assigned to the following specific tasks: literature,

mailings, house committee, Labor Action correspondent, recording secretary, Responsibility is, therefore, pretty well distributed. None of the comrades at present on these jobs has fallen down very seriously, though only the literature agent has been almost 100% responsible.

The educational director is also fraction secretary. This doubling up would not have taken place except for the two month suspension of the previous secretary for dereliction in other party duties.

Veterans Work:

Three members are in Newark chapter No. 1, AVC, of whom one is active in chapter activities. Loose cooperation exists in the chapter with several ex-YPSLs none of whom is very active in the chapter. The one active comrade is in charge of a chapter recruiting drive in the unions.

The vets in our fraction may adopt the perspective of organizing a plant chapter. In any case, vets work will be one means of spreading their contacts in the plant.

Negro work:

About 2/3 of the subscribers in housing projects are Negroes. All three recruits are Negroes. A group of about a dozen Negro contacts, gathered in the course of Labor Action door to door and picket line work have attended forums and socials off and on since April. October 1st we started a ten week class of these contacts, taught by Johnson, in the home of one of our recruits. Three contacts have attended consistently and two others occasionally.

We have been marking time with these contacts, none of whom has stopped coming around since we first encountered them. We need a Negro cadre, however small, in order to be able to lead these people in any kind of a local campaign -- only such work could activize and thereby recruit on a solid basis these inexperienced contacts. Even one experienced Negro comrade would be a lifesaver.

Literature sales:

These have been excellent. Since January, we have built up the literature department, through profits of \$40.00 on sales, and advances from the branch treasury, to a retail net worth of \$100.00. Since, thus far, we lost a little on New International and bulletin sales which are in the same fund, that forty bucks profit meant there was a big steady sale of books and pamphlets. We now carry 62 different titles in the department.

New International

Newark has a good subscriber's list compared to most branches, but promotion of the branch bundle has been almost nil. We have the magazine in one store, and the branch literature department sells 8 to 10 copies per month.

Labor Action:

As you remember, the branch came out very high in the sub-drive last spring. Therefore, the burden of chasing renewals was correspondingly heavy for us. We are up to date on renewal work, averaging about 1 out of 3 on renewals in the housing projects and better than that on renewals among miscellaneous contacts. Renewal work has included visiting ex-strikers who, while on strike, mailed in postcards that we had distributed, entitling them to free Labor Actions during the strike. At Phelps Dodge, Elizabeth, on strike 6 months, we have 20 such workers to visit now.

One of our recruits, the steel worker, was originally contacted when he mailed in such a card. Since joining the party in August he has obtained nine subs in his shop.

One place where we have obtained no subs recently is our concentration plant, since our comrades are still on probation. Even here though, we have a few old subs obtained many months ago during the strike. There have been two special Labor Action distributions at the plant, and this will be stepped up soon.

The regular bundle is 40. Of these, 15 are placed on three stands. The others are sold at forums or given away in contact work.

There have been two special distributions -- one at another GM plant, the other a very successful street sale and door to door mobilization in the Negro section of an issue with an anti-lynch spread.

Educational Activity:

The branch meets on Saturday afternoons because of second shift workers. The forum is maintained as a weekly institution separately, in addition to the branch educational. Branch educationals have been:

August - A series of three on transitional program, each one given by a different branch member.

September - A series of three on "Evolution of Marxism", given by Berg.

October - One by Shaw on historical materialism and a series of two by Shaw on "The Economics of Socialism".

In between the above series came occasional meetings where the educational was replaced by discussion of branch perspectives, etc. In general, these educationals have given rise to good discussions on those Saturdays when the business meeting was most brief.

Forums have been held every Friday, except when a Saturday event was scheduled instead. There was a whole series of successful ones from mid-July to mid-September, attendance of contacts

varying from 7 to 16 and always outnumbering members present. When the Negro class began October 1st, the weekly forum took a drop, attendance of contacts to three October forums being 4, 2 and 2. Our old "politicos" among the contacts will not come to hear local speakers, and our new contacts go to the class. Therefore, work is needed to interest a new group of contacts in the forum. The branch is going to concentrate on personal contact work as soon as the renewal drive ends.

Once a month we hold a main event on Saturday, sometimes a social, sometimes a meeting. In September, Shachtman on the international situation set a record for local attendance, 35 contacts being present. In October we held a joint Halloween party with the N. Y. youth (they can't find as good a party hall in N. Y.!). This attracted 23 contacts. Scheduled for a Saturday in November is our Russian Revolution anniversary meeting with Garrett speaking on "What is the Soviet Union and Where is it Going?"

Preparations for the Shachtman meeting were extensive. Three thousand leaflets and 600 Labor Actions were distributed at two high schools, a university, the A.V.C. and the downtown section. There was a large mailing and an advance sale of tickets. P.S. - Ten of the outsiders were produced by the leaflets. A bigger effort will be made for the Garrett meeting.

Two main Friday forums were devoted to the price question with national speakers (Gates and Erber). About ten contacts each time attended. Leaflets were distributed for these meetings to a GM plant, and a large mailing was sent out.

Price Campaign in general:

The branch is new and small. Certain activities, irrespective of the price campaign, are of primary importance for it:

1 - Winning over the large old Trotskyist periphery in Newark and the development of a new politicalized periphery from the high schools and colleges. Hence our largest meetings took place on Russia, the international situation, etc.

2 - The development of the first contact made in the sub-drive on the basis of the subject most important to them, namely Negro problems and shop problems, not prices.

Furthermore, the most important place for a price campaign-- the plant concentration -- was not a feasible place for a campaign because our comrades were too new in the plant.

The national office made it doubly difficult for any branch to take it too seriously on the campaign by failing to issue a pamphlet on the subject in the whole ninety days of the program of action. Since Labor Action has to vary its emphasis from week to week according to what is most prominent in the class struggle (maritime strike, lynchings in Georgia, etc.), a pamphlet was essential as a central axis for branch work day in and day out on the price question.

Youth Work:

Although every branch is supposed to be responsible for initiating youth work, this was not listed as a specific item to be reported on. It certainly should be emphasized.

In the spring, through a leaflet distribution at a Max Lerner forum we contacted two youth who have since developed very rapidly politically. They are still not formal members, but contribute substantial pledges and take assignments.

Through them we organized two discussion meetings in August in the Oranges. Unfortunately, the 7 or 8 youth attending these meetings all went away to college.

As noted above, we distribute leaflets at high schools for our biggest meetings. Last month the leaflet for Shachtman drew four high school students and three vets from an evening high. In general, though, the work of developing youth contacts has been slow. Two of our contacts have N.I. subs and have bought considerable literature. (This aside from the two active sympathizers, who have read and learned at a prodigious rate.

State of the branch and perspective:

Activity level is high, financial responsibility 100%, social composition and industrial concentration good. Yet morale is only fair. Why? Because there has been very little recruiting. The pay-off on our concentration lies entirely in the future, and meanwhile all outside work (sub drive, leaflets, etc.) seems to arrive at a dead end, since sympathizers and recruits are raw workers and need action to bind them to us and to make the party seem like a living force.

Our concentration is 12 miles from Newark and most of the workers do not live in Newark and its suburbs, being located in the Elizabeth area. Since we also have many contacts in Phelps Dodge, Elizabeth and General Motors Linden, the further development of work in the concentration plant will lessen considerably our Newark work, if not cripple it altogether.

We need a concentration plant in Newark (even if it consists of only two or three people). We need these additional forces even to maintain our present Newark activity. We need them to lead and give form to the work of our sympathizers, some of whom work in each of these plants.

It is not wrong for the branch to seek "outside" forces in this regard instead of depending on its own resources. With our own resources we laid the groundwork by making contacts in all these important Newark plants (Worthington Pump, with 3,000 steel workers, GM Harrison with 1,600 auto workers, Westinghouse Newark with 3,000 electrical workers etc., ad infinitum). But if a few of the comrades in N. Y., unable to find anything more fruitful than neighborhood work to do will come into one or two of these plants in the way that the Newark members have gone into their concentration plant in the Elizabeth area, then these plants

will be the basis for a real development of the party. In terms of weight in the class struggle, of recruitment of workers, every comrade who goes into one of these plants instead of continuing to vegetate increases his value to the party a thousand percent. Such colonization remains the crying need of the branch.

Saul Berg

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READING, Pa.

The article written by the organizer of the Reading branch and published in Party Builder No. 2 should be consulted for an accurate picture of the state of the Reading branch. In addition, it should be noted that the branch as it is now constituted is a completely stable unit with the exception of one comrade, who has not found it possible to solve certain family difficulties. that prevent him from participating in the life of the branch. Our main concern with this comrade has been to find some solution that would permit him to attend branch meetings regularly for educational purposes.

While the condition of the branch is healthy from the point of view of really enormous amount of work that is done, work that will pay dividends only in the future, and the solidity of the party membership, we still face the need to supplement our activity within the steel local in which we are all concentrated. If we could recruit, and this is a realistic possibility within the near future, two persons, outside the local--people who were not tied up in any trade union situation--we would be able to engage in more all around activity. This is the main need of the Reading branch to give full stature and the possibility of real growth--all around activity. The adherence of just two new members would also make it possible to distribute the branch work over a wider area. In the first place, this would relieve the branch organizer of several tasks that hinder more political work. The recruitment of the two members we did recruit immediately after the convention meant a big improvement from this point of view. The next step, when it occurs will completely remedy the situation. Needless to say, we have in mind two persons whom we are trying to crack.

Our main activity on the price and housing campaign was a fairly successful meeting with Erber. For physical reasons (lack of headquarters), it is difficult for us to organize frequent meetings in our own behalf. Since our main efforts were directed towards prodding the Union movement to engage in public action--mainly through our own local--we obviously didn't have time to arrange to mobilize publicly in our own name; an impossible feat, anyway, at this time. I think that the only course possible was the one we took, but which has had little fruition up until the present--that is, to work exclusively through union channels.

In the event that the local labor movement should ever act publicly, meetings, etc., the extent of our activity would be sales of literature, etc. and possibly another meeting. Any other plan would be unrealizable, locally. Our main achievement on this score was the election of a price control committee in our steel local which consisted of the 6 C.I.O. council delegates and 6 rank and filers. However, because of the apathy and disappointment of the rank and file (a purely temporary condition) and the timidity and retreat (which is turning into vindictiveness) on the part of the leadership who show no interest in pushing anything progressive these days, we have had no success in even having a successful meeting of this committee. However, discussion is long overdue on this question and at the next meeting of the local, we intend to bring the question up as individuals.

However, had the NO published some pamphlets on this question, we could have sold as a minimum, 50 copies, in the shop alone. And in a branch like ours, where agitation and propaganda is almost our exclusive weapon at this time, a successful sale of pamphlets would have contributed to a better campaign.

I think that a report on activities around the program of action can best be described under points 3 to 12 (Organization Directive No. 7) because the program outlines a systematic approach and perspective regarding these items -- all of which, as a whole, constitute the life and activities of the Party.

We presently have six members. Although things have fallen off in the past several weeks, we have established that the MINIMUM, even if ONLY activity of a branch member must be to attend branch meetings. All of the members are active in other functions, however, but we have been straining some of the members by giving them too many outside assignments which they were unable to fulfill anyway. In the future, we intend to assign three of the comrades to activity within the shop and union (mainly party work within the shop) exclusively. This consists of a very reasonable L.A. sales, collection of foreign relief money, etc. Comrade Adams, who is now in a position to handle additional assignments, will be given exclusive outside activity. The organizer will engage in both because it is possible for him to do so. One comrade will be excused from all activity except that we will press him to attend branch meetings.

As you can see, the social composition is exclusively proletarian, and our contacts are workers. In a sense, this poses a problem in reverse. We would like to have a few professional or intellectual sympathizers. In Reading, however, even those who do not work in industrial plants, Adams for example, have contact mainly among workers. We have contact with a white collar worker, incidentally, whom we hope will join the party soon. We wouldn't even consider having him get' into industry.

We have had no turn over in the party, except for the loss of J. Clawges, an old timer, who dropped out about a year ago. He is really in an emotional slump--not political in nature. We have held on to our new members, and as a whole, they are becoming really alert, and stable members of the branch. There is

only one exception.

I think that point #4 is explained fairly well in all of the above. As soon as we assign the comrades to specific tasks within the shop, I think that our fraction work will be in good order.

We have done nothing on veterans work. None is planned for the coming period except that we intend to hold a forum with Gould on some aspect of veterans problems. This will be entirely exploratory.

We have no executive committee. The organizer usually plans the agenda. Comrade Adams and I frequently get together for informal discussion. In this fashion, the agenda of the branch is usually gone through with smoothly. We have made excellent improvement on this score. The business meeting is over within an hour.

We have done no systematic Negro work. We have had several Negro contacts. The really educated and advanced Negroes usually have a petty-bourgeois outlook--college trained and a career in New York, etc. Louis, however, tells of a young veteran he met at the recreation center (Louis works there part time). Louis was enthusiastic about the person. However, I will give no premature report on this person.

We have been rather on our toes on literature sales. Some of the comrades are still reluctant to ask workers to buy literature. But gradually this is being worn down. Workers do buy literature and read it. We have a modest base on which we can depend to buy new pamphlets, etc. I shall give an abstract of our sales in the past period.

Since August we sold 15 copies of the Fight for Socialism (paper) mainly to non-party people. We sold 6 copies of the new edition of Plenty for All. However, we sold a considerable quota of the old edition previously. We also sold a number of the Blue outline series but I didn't keep an individual record of these. Of all the pamphlets, that is the popular pamphlets that appeared before the convention, we always sold about 50 copies each. These were all the pamphlets that appeared over a period of time.

Sales of the N.I. and the L.A. are as follows. We have sold regularly about 17 copies of the N.I. each month. The others we have distributed for promotional purposes. These sales include party members. We are selling about 6 copies of L.A. out of a bundle of 15--this includes newsstand sales. L.A. and the N.I. have been placed on one newsstand. We had arranged to place both on a newsstand very near the steel plant. However, the person who runs the store was probably frightened by the "radical" nature of the literature and refused to handle these items. This person is Jewish. It seems, for understandable reasons, that Jewish storekeepers are more wary of hurting business as a result of handling our literature than others. The Jewish population in Reading is small and predominantly middle class. This

would have been an ideal stand. I am sure that we could have made many sales.

Of course, we plan to place L.A. and the N.I. on other stands as soon as it can be arranged. Within a month or so we will begin sales, mainly of L.A., at union meetings, etc. The field is much larger than our bundle of 15. We intend to start exploiting it.

Incidentally, we received the following L.A. subs; 7 yearly and 6 six month subs. There were three other subs which I didn't record as to the time period. This makes 16 subs. Not too good. I know that we can do much better. Five of these were new and 11 renewals.

After delaying for so long a period, we finally have gotten down to some serious educational work in the branch. However, since we want to conduct educationals for contacts, and since we cannot have the branch members occupied too many nights in the week we decided on the following, Branch meetings start at 7:30 P.M. and are scheduled to end by 8:30 P.M. After that the educational begins. We are using the outline, the Role of the Party. We have not yet involved any outsiders, but we will shortly break the ice.

Our difficulty on this question was twofold. First, the lack of a headquarters. This presented us with a scheduling problem. We decided that we have no choice but to meet in homes during the coming period. Anyway, our attendance will not be too large at first. A home, of course, offers other inconveniences. Household activities. We have to shift for the time being.

The real problem was to decide what we wanted to discuss. What kind of educational class, etc. We finally decided upon using the above outline and we intend to adhere to it for the coming period. We will use supplementary material and follow up by-paths as they come up.

Point 11 is fully covered I think.

I will outline the perspective of the branch briefly,

Two new members by the end of the year.

Two forums by the end of the year. Next year we plan regular monthly forums.

Improve the all-around activity of the branch.

- a) Covering union meetings with L.A.
- b) Each member in the Union with a permanent function and routine.
- c) To the extent that it is possible, to take advantage of all local developments and organize some form of party work around it. This includes press releases, etc.

Improved literature sales.

Placing of N.I. and L.A. on more newsstands.

Exploit all possibilities in the sale of other

literature. This is mainly an individual approach, problem, except for sales at meetings, etc.

One of the main needs of the branch is a permanent headquarters. Until we obtain one, we will always be inadequate. We plan on establishing a headquarters fund.

I think this outlines our perspective. Much of the rest is implicit in the foregoing report.

ADDENDA

So far as the functions of the individual departments are concerned, I have already noted that there is a big improvement here. This is due to assigning other comrades with some of the work I had been doing. Comrade Adams is now financial secretary and Louis is secretary. Louis has been somewhat remiss in writing communications to the N.O.--those that we assigned him to write. ~~_____~~

As soon as we recruit several persons, I intend to hand over the literature agents tasks to some one else. Adams can relinquish the financial secretaryship and can handle exclusively the job of educational director which I now also hold. This step will really improve the whole branch routine. I can then act as organizer, exclusively, and also handle the foreign aid project which doesn't involve much work.

Since August, literature sales from all sources amounted to \$17.80. I made an error in the number of Fight for Socialism pamphlets sold during this period. As of August 19th, I put into effect a method of recording sales of individual items. Up to and including August 19th, we sold 12 copies. We sold 2 in September and 1 in October. So the bulk of the 17 dollars doesn't consist of sales of the Fight as would seem the case. In the future, we will have more accurate accounts of individual items. When I set up the individual accounts I summarized all of the sales up to and including August 19th. Thus we have no accurate count of the period before that.

The main sources are: About \$6.50 from N.I.
3.00 from Fight for Socialism
1.25 Plenty for All

The rest is from sales of incidental items, including Party bulletin, L.A., etc.

During the same period, we purchased \$18.39 worth of literature. We have \$2.39 onhand. A sum of money must come in from the October N.I. We have over \$14.00 worth of literature on hand (cost price.) Our only outstanding bill is to the N.I. for \$20.00. We originally owed \$38.75 and reduced it to \$20.00 within 3 weeks time.

V. Pettinato

ST. LOUIS (Fraternal)

This report must be essentially the same as the one sent comrade Gould early in August. The membership remains exactly the same as at the last registration. We have four members, and the branch has been comparatively inactive -- on the basis of its present membership, it is very doubtful if the branch can ever function in the way that other branches do. Nevertheless, since last spring, and especially during the last couple of months, the two members of the branch capable of participating effectively in this type of work, Hansen and Coleman, have worked in a discussion group composed of students and other young people (including A.C. and Youth PAC members) and this activity seems to offer some hope. This is the only public or semi-public activity that the branch is engaged in. This discussion group is not controlled by the W.P.; but we are able to collaborate with a former Trotskyist in running it, to the extent that the various subjects discussed -- Russia, Palestine, the Labor Government in England, the United Nations, etc. -- are all presented mainly from the W.P. viewpoint. At the last discussion, on Russia, there were about twenty "outsiders" present. The main difficulty has been in the large proportion of new people that turn up at each meeting. The meetings are held every two or three weeks. There is no immediate possibility of recruitment from this group but something might be done later on. Here the difficulty would be that the composition of the branch is such that it would be completely lacking in interest for any recruit we might get from the discussion group.

Only one member of the branch, Stratton, works in industry and only one other member, Coleman, is in a position to do so. Stratton works in a U.A.W. plant and her activity in her local union is the entire extent of the branch's trade union activity. Stratton tries to do everything she can in her union and she has received a great deal of assistance from the branch in handling her union problems.

She was a shop steward for a while, has been on the educational committee, etc.

So far as distribution of literature is concerned, all that has been done has been the occasional distribution of L.A. in one neighborhood and more recently, the mailing of sample copies of L.P. to members of the discussion group mentioned above. There have been no attempts at public meetings since we were stood up a year or so ago by comrade Gates (although this was not due to comrade Gates' personal negligence.)

Educational activities within the branch have been confined to occasional discussions of internal bulletin and N.I. articles. Educational activity is badly needed -- the political level of the branch is not very high. But a majority of the members seems unable to settle down to any regular program of study. Irregular branch meetings have a bad effect in this connection. Until about the beginning of September, meetings were held fairly regularly each week. Since then, due to a variety of seemingly unavoidable circumstances mostly affecting everyone except the secretary, it has been impossible to have a meeting with all four of the members present. In such a small group, a meeting with less than the full membership is not worth much. The recent tendency can probably be changed, but the effect is bad. Partly due to this lapse in branch meetings, a deficit in the branch treasury amounting to about \$24.00 has piled up. But in order to meet N.I. and L.A. bills, buy literature, etc., the branch must exceed its income; so the deficit will continue to pile up at the rate of several dollars a month.

H. D. Coleman

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HIBBING (Fraternal)

1. State of the Hibbing Branch

Hibbing is lagging. It owes the Party in dues and pledges, \$56.85. It owes for a few months' supply of NI and for a few weeks' LA. All but 25¢ of this amount is owed by one of the two comrades, caused by a period of setbacks following his loss of employment in April. These dues and pledges will, however, be redeemed, absolutely and as soon as possible. Morally, the branch here is high, with no dead material dragging down its necessarily limited activities. Party prospects exist here in the shape of LA renewers and radically disillusioned workers, but require resources to exploit the situation beyond our present means. Hibbing possesses limited supply of books and pamphlets and is studying them for application. Hibbing has no treasury at present.

2. Activities of Hibbing Branch since National Convention;

(a) Activities in the price and housing campaign:

Hibbing has not been active in the price and housing campaign except to propagandize whenever possible. Hibbing's forces do not permit an organizational campaign on this situation. Fifty copies of LABOR ACTION have been put into the hands of workers and dirt farmers weekly and this, though in itself far from satisfactory as to recruiting and otherwise adding sinews to the Party framework, is having its results, as explained later herein.

(b) Activities around the Program of Action:

The report here repeats our activities in the price and housing campaign. Hibbing has obtained three renewals to LA, talked with a limited number of workers, and its two members have been able to meet only infrequently, although maintaining necessary correspondence. Since being pushed out of his job last April, one member has been too hard pressed economically to be able to get around as he did previously, and of course it has become clear that his being pushed out was motivated by his activities. The second member is working hard on the job, has not yet become fluent in putting over our ideas, has a family situation to contend with, and is being discriminated against by his employer due to his political stand. Therefore, limited both as to forces and money, Hibbing can only agitate, acquaint the local population widely with LA and build a file of contacts and prospects for future utilization.

3. Membership:

(a) Present Membership:

Hibbing has two members. One is an ex-CPer; very dependable and learning and doing what he can under company pressure. The second member has a precarious income at the moment, has been temporarily isolated from the mass workers' movements, but will rebound.

(b) Social Composition:

Hibbing is strictly proletarian. One member in the railroad industry, eleven years' seniority, does hard labor. The second member is currently working as an independent lumberjack and cannot work in the local industries due to his being pushed out of the railroad industry because of his activities and the use of personal records by the companies, his being known, etc. Both members are in poor circumstances, neither owning a home or anything substantial. One has three children, the other one has one and momentarily expects number 2.

(c) Hibbing's active membership is made up of the two aforementioned members.

(d) Recruitment and Turnover:

Hibbing has not been able to recruit any additional members for several months. This is due principally to the financial straits of its two members, their comparative isolation caused by their conditions of work, geographical factors of distance, etc. Undoubtedly, should Hibbing be able to circumvent their handicaps, they will be able to recruit at least enough members additionally at the outset to constitute a regular branch. There is also one prospect at Duluth and perhaps one at Superior, adjacent to Duluth. There have been a number of voluntary LA renewals in the Iron Range area that we have not been able to follow up and both members have had favorable experiences with the way LA is received, and other significant facts indicative of a shifting and a heightening of the workers' consciousness. Hibbing has lost one member, an old and unwell worker who was never very active and who yielded to family, reactionary workers' and general social pressure.

LOUISVILLE

1. State of the branch:

Losses have recently hit the Louisville branch pretty hard. During the past two or three months we have had our forces cut by four members. One of the members (Nolan, now a member at large) has left town. Clancy is on a leave of absence in New York. Stewart and Scott are also in New York, and have been removed from the branch rolls. None of the above have been lost to the party, but their absence from Louisville is felt very much, both politically and personally.

The general morale in the branch is good considering the above mentioned body blow. There is one thing that bothers us very much, however, and that is the seeming inability of the party as a whole to grow. This fact has been discussed and discussed in the branch. We are not discouraged. But we do hope something can be done about it.

2. Activities since convention:

Since the convention Comrade Anderson has succeeded in getting a job in industry. This makes a grand total of two in industry here.

Activities on the price program have been confined to getting the CIO City Council, and my local on record in favor of the escalator clause and for wage increases without corresponding price increases for industry. Both of the above have received publicity in the local press.

On the Program of Action: We have, as stated above, done a little something in regard to prices. We have not recruited since the convention. We have some hope on that score. We have got another member in industry.

3. Membership:

(a) Our present membership is six, five of the six are in Louisville, one (Clancy) in New York on a leave of absence.

(b) Two members work in industry. One is an office worker. Another is a student at the University. One is on leave of absence. One is writing and taking care of her child.

(c) All members are active in some phase of party work.

4. Trade union concentration and factory and fraction work; industrialization of the membership:

Two are in factories, one in steel and the other in farm equipment. The steel plant is organized. The other is a new plant and not yet organized.

Activity in the factories consist for the most part in trying to raise the development (political) of the workers. This is done in the usual way, i.e., putting forth our program on the union floor, and talking it in the shop.

Further industrialization here is, I think, in the distant future; unless we are able to recruit some working class people.

5. Veterans work:

There are no veterans in the branch, other than Clancy.

6. Functioning of the executive committee and individual departments:

We have an executive committee of two members. It is hardly necessary in a branch so small, and so its activities are quite similar to those of other branch members. It consists of a Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer.

7. Negro work:

There has been little or no Negro work since the convention.

8. Literature sales:

The NI is on sale at a newsstand here. We average about three or four sales a month, other than those bought by branch members.

We have sold several copies of party literature at public meetings. These included: Plenty for All, The Fight for Socialism, etc. One of the discussion group members sent in a large order for literature.

9. Sales, circulation and promotion of LA and NI:

The NI was covered above. We sold over 50 subs to LA in the recent sub drive. All of these were allowed to expire (by the people who subed) except one. We think that selling subs door to door, and expecting something wonderful to happen, like contacts, is next to futile. Generally people buy subs because they are "sold," and not because they have or will attain any real interest in the revolutionary movement.

We have been receiving 300 copies of LA weekly (free) for distribution. According to the National Office, the free LAs are about to be discontinued. We will then try through passing out leaflets urging subscription at the plant gates, to get a few subs.

10. Educational Activity:

We have regular educational meetings. There are no other educational activities, unless one would count occasional "bull sessions" whenever party members meet.

11. Reports on public meetings and public activities in general:

Our only public activity is the discussion group. The attendance at this group has been very poor recently, and the branch has decided to drop it for the time being. We have tried every way to get the people out (parties, sending cards to subscribers of LA, personal contact, etc., etc.) but to no avail. The interest has lagged. Perhaps we can revive it in the future.

12; Perspectives of the branch:

All the above sounds pretty discouraging, I know. But I am convinced that something can be done in Louisville. What we need most of all is more people, particularly people in industry. The combined union movement here (AFL and CIO) is not too small, so some good work could be done, IF WE HAD THE PEOPLE.

We are starting from scratch again, so to speak, We have been as low as two members here, but we have always come back. we can do it this time too. But this losing members to other branches all the time is bad. It doesn't help the morale here a little bit.

R. Harris

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BAY AREA (SAN FRANCISCO)

The State of the Branch

The WP set as a major task in the Program of Action, the consolidation of existing branches. To that end the Bay Area Branch has concerned itself with internal reorganization that has resulted in the following: The assignment and support of a full-time organizer, the creation of a headquarters in Oakland, the creation of a functioning executive committee and the integration of new members and colonizers in the branch.

At the present time, the branch is in a transitional state. Relocating its work in the Oakland area, conducting a sub renewal drive, establishing its industrial concentration in the UAW and veterans organizations and establishing the new headquarters as a center of branch activity. Branch meetings are now being held on a weekly basis instead of once every two weeks. Also scheduled are two monthly forums, with the perspective of formal classes in January.

The morale of the branch is quite high and there is a general spirit of collaboration to meet the common tasks. The preponderance of elements new to the party poses a serious educational problem that remains to be solved. The development of cadre material is proceeding very slowly.

Membership

The present membership of the branch is 23.

The social composition of the branch is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 auto workers (3 former SUP) | 3 students |
| 1 longshore | 1 housewife |
| 1 Seaman | 2 Nursery school teachers |
| 2 R.R. workers | 1 store clerk |
| 1 machinist | 2 unemployed (office worker, singer) |
| 1 foodworker | |
| 1 office worker | 1 cartoonist |
| 1 Govt. worker | 1 organizer |

The branch has an active membership of 21.

Recruitment and Turnover - The membership reported at the convention was 18. 6 members were transferred in. 5 members were transferred out. 4 new members were recruited. Present membership - 23.

Trade Union Concentration, etc.

The branch concentrates its activities on the machinist, railroad, UAW and longshore unions.

A fraction of 4 members exists in the UAW.

4 members participated actively in the seamen's strike. 1 member active in the longshore strike.

Branch issued special leaflet defending LABOR ACTION against CP attack in longshore union.

Regular sales of LA and special distributions.

Concentration on industrial workers in sub renewal drive.

Veterans Work

Of 11 vets in the branch, 8 are members of the AVC. We are in the preliminary stages of our activity in this field. Members are active on some of the committees of the AVC. We were instrumental in leading the fight to have AVC picket G.L.K. Smith. We raised the issue of support of AVC to the Stalinist China conference (their new Win the Peace Committee). Also active on the \$200 ceiling issue on income. In the process of establishing ourselves as a distinct political tendency.

Executive Committee Functioning

The Executive Committee consists of the organizer, R.R. worker, longshoreman, auto worker, office worker. It has recently begun to function as the collective leadership of the branch. Most all business is handled by the Executive Committee prior to the branch meeting and concrete proposals for action brought to the membership. The branch has begun to consider political questions in more detail as a result.

The branch contact files have been reorganized. The recording secretary, financial secretary and literature director are quite competent in the conduct of their work. Branch educational activity has been charged to a number of different comrades in the past period but this situation is now resolved and one comrade is now formally in charge who is quite adequate in the post.

There still remains the problem of streamlining the branch meetings. We are still far from being efficient in the conduct of our business. A good deal of progress has occurred in the past period.

Communication and correspondence with the National Office is carried on on a regular schedule so that reports, material, etc. are usually forwarded quite promptly.

Negro Work

Negro work in the past period has consisted in the past period of contacting and sub drive work in a large Negro neighborhood of Berkeley. One of the branch members functions in the Berkeley Interracial Club. A small number of Negroes have come to the branch forums and branch socials. The one Negro member of the branch has been unavailable for branch activity because of conditions of work (R.R. man) and family situation. We have a number of interested contacts in the concentration area. A good portion of current LA subs and expired LA subs are Negro readers of the press.

Literature Sales

The branch has improved its literature sales and set up a functioning system of control and accounting of literature. All back debts to the National Office have been liquidated and the branch functions on a pay-as-you-go basis.

No records exist of literature sales prior to September 1946. The following are the totals sold in the months of September and October:

Jobs for All - 3	Role of the Party - 1
Truth about Smith - 20	Fight against Jim Crow - 3
Role of Trade Unions - 3	Security and Living Wage - 1
Fight for Socialism - 7	Socialism - Hope of Humanity - 19

Labor Action and New International

The following represents the actual picture of the circulation of LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL in the Bay Area and environs:

LA present sub list - 89	Total expired subs (last drive) LA - 165
NI present sub list - 24	Previous expired subs LA - 200

Total NI expired - app 10 Total LA expired - app. 365

LA subs secured monthly - New & Renewal: July 6, August 13, September 19, October 19.

NI subs secured - new and renewal - August 1, October 4

Present weekly bundle orders:	LA Newsstands; 2 S.F. stands -
LA East Bay - 75	15 weekly
LA - San Francisco 65	
<u>140</u>	(including stands)

Monthly N.I. Bundle - 50	NI - Newsstands: 3 S.F. stands -
(includes Newsstand copies)	20 monthly, 1 Berkeley - 6

Extra distributions included 300 copies of the first 8-pager. 200 each extra copies of LA containing RR articles were distributed (2 issues).

Regular sales based on the number of availables in the branch are conducted on a weekly basis at the following unions: Longshore (weekly); UAW (twice monthly), Machinits (weekly), R.R. workers (twice monthly); Central Trades AFL Oakland (weekly).

The branch has set itself a quota of 100 subs and renewals for the period October 11 to December 6, 1946. To date a total of 16 has been secured. Included in the figure of 100 are quotas for each of the branch industrial concentrations, i.e., 10 R.R., 10 longshore, 10 machinist, 10 UAW.

Educational Activity

The educational activity of the branch has consisted of the following in the past period:

- 1) Role of the Party Class for members and sympathizers. Sessions were held on alternate Fridays. Attendance 15-20.
- 2) Beginners Class in Marxism - Pamphlets Communist Manifesto and Wage Labor & Capital, State & Revolution - 2 sessions for each pamphlet. Attendance 5-9 members.
- 3) Advanced Discussion Group on Transitional Program - 5 sessions. Topics included Death Agony of Capitalism, Housing, Veterans, Minority Groups, Labor Party. 9-12 members.
- 4) Two informal meetings with Goldman and Barsh were held. Extremely important for integrating new elements.

Public Meetings and Public Activities

The public meetings of the WP in this area have consisted of the following:

- 2 Goldman meetings.
- Several Role of the Party educationals
- Meeting on Palestine
- High Cost of Living Meeting
- Meeting on World War III
- Meeting on FEPC (Forum with NAACP and Berkeley Interracial speakers)
- Social-house party.

In addition, the WP participated in two picket lines against G.L.K. Smith.

Perspectives of the Bay Area Branch

In considering the Program of Action with relation to the price campaign, the branch felt that it could not at the present stage of its existence conduct a large-scale campaign as indicated.

The branch is limited in its activity to conducting forums and contact work with particular emphasis on the drive for 100 renewals and subs to LABOR ACTION by December 6th. Included in this is the obtaining of 25 subs to THE NEW INTERNATIONAL.

Further, a major task is the establishment of the new headquarters as a center of branch activity. Creation of regular office hours, establishment of a functioning European Relief Comm., stabilization of present union sales, expansion of newsstand circulation, regular contacting, new members' class and integration of branch activity are the major activities set for the next period.

While no membership recruiting quotas are set, it is be-

lieved that the branch will continue to grow in the next period. The heavy financial burden of an organizer and headquarters demand particular attention to the raising of a sustaining fund from sympathizers. Substantial progress in raising the branch income has occurred in the past period with the return to employment of a number of comrades and new recruiting. The problem remains to regularize the functioning of the branch in all spheres by continuing the work recently begun.

Milton Miller.

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LOS ANGELES

GENERAL.

The branch has not done any recruiting in the recent period (four recruits, of which 2 were former members of the Baltimore SYL) but as a result of work done the recruiting prospects are quite good. Whether these prospects can be actualized depends on overcoming branch difficulties which will be indicated below. In general, the work of the branch has improved since the last convention.

MEMBERSHIP

There are 23 members - 25 on the books, but 2 will probably have to be dropped very soon as dead wood. There is a core of 10 who are the most active, another 10 who carry on a minimum activity, and a couple of problem children who can be activized when sat on. Most of the middle group are not as active as they would want to be because of individual difficulties. Branch attendance is fair; with few exceptions, members skip meetings only for fairly legitimate reasons, such as work out of town, illness, transportation, outside organization meetings, etc.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

This is one of the two hardest problems in the branch. Statistically and from the point of view of social composition, the figures seem pretty good: i.e., over 50% proletarian, on the basis of the number in industry exclusive of housewives and functionary, what Gould labels the "real" percentage of industrialization. But the big lack is that the 10 comrades in industry are scattered; there is no concentration; and they are not in the favorable industries. This was high-lighted at our last City Convention (which immediately followed the National Convention) but we have not been able to solve the problem of moving comrades' jobs around or getting jobs in the right plants, either because of individual resistance or the state of plant hiring. It is only in the past year and a half or so that an industrial perspective for the branch has even become possible: during the war most of our industrial work as well as party work was concentrated in the Fedco area. For the immediate future, there are some rays of hope but no definite expectations. The branch today, as has been true for years, has no industrial base or trade union connections.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE

As a whole, the branch executive committee functions very well in preparing and digesting business, and smoothing the course of the business meetings. As a result, business sessions are short, rarely drag, and almost never interfere with holding the educational. The picture is not so good, however, with regard to the various departments of exec work - handling of literature department, contacting, etc. - where a lack of drive and persistent application is a continuing problem.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

This is one of the best sides of the branch. As indicated above, educationals are almost never skipped, and in the few cases over a long period when this was necessary their place was taken by some practical discussion (such as what to do about Smith) which also had great educational value. Enough time is left for educationals to permit general discussion, which is usually quite lively. Emphasis is placed upon involving everybody in the discussions as far as possible. The policy is also to involve everybody in giving educational talks. If a scheduled educational cannot be given at the last minute, impromptus are arranged (a couple of which have been among the best we have had). Subjects dealt with lately have been: post-convention discussion problems (like the Jewish question), current political issues, N.I. articles, reviews of international events, etc.

In addition to the branch educationals, most of the branch also participate in one of two study groups, meeting separately. One study group is on Marxian economics, the other on a series of Marxist "classics." Since the convention there has also been held a contact class, based on about four close contacts (with about four others attending more irregularly); of the four, one joined, two pending still, one not party material but contributes financially.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A monthly forum series has been maintained now for about a year or a year and a half. It oscillates between 40-45 and 50-60 (highest point about 70-75). Since the convention, the best public meeting was that held for Goldman (on SWP and unity), with about 70 present. The next forum was our only complete flop in a couple of years: on the question of prices and OPA. This fact points straight to the main lack of the branch: its lack of roots in industry; our contacts and sympathizers were not attracted by a subject which was purely agitational. This was followed by a public meeting on the Jewish question and Palestine, which was held experimentally in the Jewish neighborhood, instead of downtown as usual: attendance was about 40-45, with about a dozen from the neighborhood, rest being members and contacts from other sections of the city. Our most recent forum was on the foreign policy controversy between Byrnes and Wallace and pulled about 45. Our most recent public affair was a "discussion social" -- featuring a discussion between Charles Malamuth and ourselves on "Marxism and Morality," held in a large house with social trimmings - about 60 present. A couple of house-parties attempted previously were not successful. A picnic held during this period, however, was a great success, with about 80 or more adults and a horde of children.

VETERANS

There are only three in the branch -- all have joined the AVC, and have become somewhat active in it. One is in a branch with an active anti-Stalinist caucus; the other was able to put through a motion to picket Smith contrary to the Stalinist line. The CP dominates the AVC in this area. All have joined only in the last couple of months.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND NEGRO WORK

See PARTY BUILDER #2 for account of election campaign planned for spring. As stated there, the stage so far has been a series of LABOR ACTION sub mobilizations in the district, which is the heart of the Negro area in the town. Local pamphlet on "Jim Crow in Los Angeles" now ready for publication; its issuance will initiate the second stage of this campaign, still concentrating on this Negro district.

LITERATURE

General literature sales have improved a good deal since we moved to present headquarters. The NI has been selling much better since the convention. Newsstand sales of LABOR ACTION are getting difficult because downtown dealers don't want to handle a weekly paper that takes up so much space for a couple of cents. We have been able to retain only three stands downtown and two in Hollywood. The branch has not been making up for this by regular sales at meetings. When such sales have been held, the result has generally been worthwhile. The branch is taking up remedying this situation.

HEADQUARTERS

In the past year we have had to move our headquarters twice. The space situation is just as difficult as it probably is elsewhere, or more so. We now have a fair-sized room for \$40 a month, (forums are held in a hired hall), but it now appears that we will have to get out by spring. The office is kept open certain hours each day, those office hours being shared by three comrades, in addition to the nights when there are meetings. Our present office (not by design) is in the same building and next door to the SWP headquarters; however, since we moved in, quite a number of SWP'ers have dropped in to talk or buy literature.

YOUTH

Since the arrival of two youth comrades from Baltimore, they have undertaken the job of specializing in youth contacts with the aim of trying to build a youth club. This has started fairly recently, and they are following up several leads, but it is too early to report anything definite.

GENERAL

The second big difficulty of the branch (the first was the matter of industrialization discussed above) is the weakness of the political cadre of the branch. There is not a sufficiently large core of people who are politically experienced and educated

so as to be able confidently to engage in more advanced political discussions with contacts, where this is necessary. This affects contact work immediately, which is poor. With the exception of three or four people at most, the members do not carry on regular and systematic contacting assignments. The good recruiting possibilities which the branch has will not be fully realized until this is corrected.

Hal Draper

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SEATTLE

I. STATE OF THE BRANCH

The outstanding characteristics of the Seattle branch are the newness of its members, their diverse backgrounds and occupations, and their readiness to learn. The paradox that the branch is confronted with is a problem of paramount and perplexing dimension; an inexperienced membership faced with continuous complex political problems on the highest level. (CLP, ASP, SWP, etc.)

The morale of the branch is excellent. It can be safely said that the branch members look forward to the future with calm optimism.

Internal functioning of the branch remains something short of what it should be. However, a division of labor has been established and gradually comrades are learning various routine organizational tasks.

For the most part all of the comrades participate actively in branch meetings, branch educationals and general branch activities. However, there is still much to be gained in this aspect of branch work. The solution to the problem lies in simultaneously training the comrades politically and finding avenues of activity for them.

On the few occasions when the external face of the party has been presented little of any valid criticism can be made. Given our forces we did more than could have been expected. With greater experience, undoubtedly, the Seattle branch can become more dextrous and effective in presenting its face to the public.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE BRANCH

A. Activities in the price and housing campaign:

The full details of the branch's activity in the Homemakers Price Control League are in your hands. To condense it, the branch has participated fully and actively in a movement to control the price of milk. We stepped in almost at the beginning of the movement and have had a decisive voice in determining policy. So far this organization has collected some two thousand names on a petition, held a mass meeting of two hundred fifty housewives, chaired by Helen Burns. This meeting had before it an agenda drawn up by us and recommendations drawn up by us. The policy established by the Board of Strategy at its first meeting was based around our two motions: (1) calling for a caravan to the city council to ask for an ordinance establishing the price of milk, which ordinance is to be administered by housewives and union representatives; (2) calling for a visit to the milk dealers, asking them to lower prices. Said committee was authorized to call for "open the books." Caravan to city hall has taken place and despite double-cross from Stalinists it was by and large successful. Future of HPCL depends decisively on meeting of Board of Strategy tonight at which show down between the Stalinists on the one hand and the WP, the SWP, and the leaders on the other.

We anticipate, despite the fact that mass popular interest in the matter has ebbed from what it was three weeks ago, to try in one area to establish a neighborhood unit.

The branch has not participated in any activity in connection with the housing crisis.

B. Activities in connection with Program of Action:

(1) The branch has held three public meetings since the convention, the first one with some thirty-five attending. Speakers were C., his first public speech, H. as chairman, her first public chairing of a meeting, and two CCR speakers from Canada. Second and third meetings were held with Goldman; attendance - 75 at first meeting and 52 at second meeting.

(2) Aside from these three meetings and the HMCL no other implementation of the Program of Action was conceived of or suggested.

III. MEMBERSHIP

We have a total of 18 members on the books. Working in industry we have: 1 - IAM, 1 - Lumber & Sawmill Workers Union; 2 - Boilermakers union; 2 - carpet-layers (no union). In addition, we have 2 housewives. 3 of our girls are clerical workers - they are joining AFL Office-Workers Union. S. works as journalist and is member of Newspaper Guild. We have 2 students active on the campus of U. of W. B. is now in Spokane and have not to date heard from him. M. works for a chemical company in semi-clerical semi-scientific capacity. D., comrade who joined six months ago and then shipped out to Alaska has returned to find himself saddled with a store and gas station. P. has been inactive completely for four months and will be dropped at the end of this month unless a radical change can be observed. G. similarly so,

We have recruited 5 new members some four weeks ago.

It can readily be seen that our social composition is bad.

IV. TRADE UNION CONCENTRATION AND FRACTION WORK

C. is new in his plant, a small one employing some 25 and is new in his union. So far it has been a matter of getting established in his job and in the union. He is the shop steward now in his plant.

O., a man of 35, with considerable trade union experience as a CP'er just returned to a large plant where he has six years seniority. He works nights and is thereby barred from local meetings. His perspective is shop work with a perspective of becoming steward. In addition, he is looking for CLP contacts and LA subscribers.

V. VETERANS WORK

Chalk up big goose egg for Seattle branch in this respect. Aside from attendance at two or three AVC meetings, our comrades have not yet joined the AVC. This will be done this month.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT

The executive committee more and more has come to assume political leadership in the branch. The maturity and soberness of its discussions are exemplary. One might also add they are fiends on brevity. In addition, the executive committee has planned all the details in regard to all organizational activities of the branch. Thus keeping the branch free from detailed, endless discussion of the same.

Literature work has been carried by one person who did an excellent job while she was here. The responsibility for this work is now in the hands of a new comrade who after she gets lined up will prove to be excellent.

We have an educational director who works in close conjunction with the executive committee. His suggestions and recommendations show a very high political development as well as an ability to understand what the branch needs.

S. is in charge of correspondence with LABOR ACTION. I only need to mention the frequency of articles on the northwest and their high calibre in summarizing the work of that department.

The European Relief Director has efficiently secured clothing and sent same in frequently. Report on this is in the hands of Mary Bell.

VII. NEGRO WORK

M. has joined the NAACP youth organization and has been attending their meetings now for some six weeks. To date there is nothing to report.

We are in contact with a young Negro student studying law, age 28, former officer, who promises to be a recruit in the next two to

three months. He is extremely intelligent. So far he has read Max's book and Engel's on the family and the state. He is an avid reader of LABOR ACTION. Recruiting him will be a tremendous asset to our branch. In a sense he is the answer to every organizer's prayer.

In addition, we have contact with two Negro couples who are extremely backward politically but who read the paper and who have read "PFA". These four people will have to be worked on over a considerable period of time before they can be considered recruitable.

2 of our comrades are involved in Civil Liberties Union meetings, that is, they attend the monthly sessions of this organization merely to keep us informed and to provide us with contact with the outfit when and if needed.

VIII. LITERATURE SALES

Literature sales for this branch have been excellent. We have sold something like 50 "Fight for Socialism", 40 "Plenty for All", 15 "Socialism, the Hope of Humanity," 15 "Security and a Living Wage," 15 ABC's of Marxism, 3 "New Course," 4 "India in Revolt," 10 "Role of the Party," 10 "Role of the Trade Union," 5 "Transitional Program," 5 "Russian Question," 4 "Origin of the Family", 5 "Wage, Labor and Capital," 5 "Value, Price and Profit," 5 "Communist Manifesto," 5 "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific."

IX. LABOR ACTION AND NEW INTERNATIONAL

Newsstand sales of LA are about 7 a week; NI on newsstands about 12 a month. At present there is, in addition, a sale of another half dozen LA's a week and 15 NI's a month by the branch. At present the branch is not contemplating any sales at union meetings. We have too many expired subs, too many good LA subscribers, and too many good CLP contacts to visit.

X. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(1) We have held 8 consecutive lectures based on "Fight for Socialism." Attending this class were some 4 to 9 non-party members. At the termination of the class four people joined the party.

(2) We have held one post-convention discussion on the Jewish question and on the Negro question. This educational was held on a special night and had 5 non-party members in attendance.

(3) At present we are in the midst of an educational series of 3 covering the following three subjects:

- (a) Labor Party versus third party in the U.S.
- (b) British Labor Party - an Example of the Lesser Evil.
- (c) Spain, How the Lesser Evil Leads to the Victory of Fascism.

(4) In addition, we have from time to time discussions of ten or fifteen minutes arising out of a LA quiz.

(5) Individual reading.

(6) In my estimation the greatest amount of education has taken place in the branch discussions of branch problems, viz: Stalinism, its role and how to fight it, our attitude towards the Socialist Party and why, the nature of the SWP and the united front, the meaning of the labor party line of the party and the CLP, how to estimate a mass movement and the nature of what we can do in it, etc.

XI. REPORT ON PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Meetings already reported on. Under the category of public activity might be included negotiations with ASP and our efforts to establish a basis for joint WP and SWP election activity. These have been reported in detail. In addition, our activity within the CLP (Committee for Labor Party) also might constitute public activity as it is known throughout the radical section of labor movement in Seattle that we, the WP, are behind and active in the CLP.

XII. PERSPECTIVES

We shall open the year with a headquarters. This will mark a sharp change in party life. In addition, the taking of the headquarters should be helpful in regard to the recruitment of some sympathizers now standing close to us, but still shy, because of our size and "clubby" appearance.

We are anticipating the recruitment of as few as one and as many as 6 from the SWP. Their addition to the branch will be extremely important as they will bring with them considerable experience and knowledge.

We intend concentrating on CLP work and consumers work as the only avenues open to us for the acquisition of working class contacts, subscribers and recruits. At present there is little, if any, possibility of industrialization of those not working in industry. At present there is little if any prospect of recruitment of any industrial workers.

It is our intention to continue our general organizational, educational and propagandist activity as a branch and to work, in addition to the CLP, in the AVC, office workers union, NAACP, HPCL, campus, etc.

We can expect modest and slow gains in the next period.

With the development of our branch cadre the possibility of recruitment and more effective external party activity in general will rise.

All the comrades in the branch here, except for the organizer, are indigenous to Seattle and dispose of a vigor and freshness in views and attitudes that make this branch outstanding in the party. With persistence, hard work, and a little intelligence, we should recruit in the next six months ten new members. In addition, we should have built a solid CLP, trained a party cadre twice the size of the present one, engaged in one or two more "actions," and organized at least four public meetings.

Jesse Simons

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CHICAGO

I. State of Branch: Since the convention the branch life has gone through the following approximate periods: 1) post-convention process of establishing fusion and integration with ex-Minority SWP comrades; 2) cleaning and remodeling of new headquarters from August 15 to October 12 housewarming; 3) systematic moving-in on problems of branch organization that had been disrupted by 2 and dealing with outstanding problems not yet tackled. The overall picture of the branch today can be described as healthy, with problems of finance and membership composition still to be changed. The sacrifices in time, energy and money that went into the creation of the new headquarters have demonstrated their necessity, in order to function the way we should, but finances will remain an outstanding problem. As will be shown, the branch has maintained a high level of activity during this period. It now feels "on its feet" politically and organizationally, confident of its future, proud of its accomplishments and capable of becoming the attractive force in the local revolutionary movement. Word has reached us that the SWP has been forced to import from East and West.

II. Activities

a. Around the Program of Action - As mentioned, the past period has been one primarily of consolidation, under the peculiar local conditions of an almost doubled membership and obtaining headquarters. The branch is only now able to launch out in campaign fashion. The assignment of work amongst all comrades is in process of completion, based on the attached schedules which represent a conscious attempt to promote activity, fix responsibility and divide the load fairly. The coordination of work so necessary for smooth running is being achieved as the organizer and executive committee members have been relieved from headquarters work. Integration of new members has proceeded well. An outstanding defect that remains is the lack of a youth organization, resulting from lack of contact with high school youth and the desire of college youth to function as party rather than youth members.

b. Around the Price and Housing Campaign - 1) Before the national campaign began, one public meeting on the end of price control was held, advertised by a propaganda leaflet to union rallies and in neighborhood of headquarters. Several contacts reached through this have attended subsequent party meetings and affairs or subscribed to LA. The long interval of headquarters building prevented follow-up and expansion of campaign till now. 2) The branch has now been divided into two squads of comrades living respectively on the Northwest and South sides, with these squads after November 5 to go into their respective neighborhoods with a leaflet calling for the creation of popular price control committees. For one month thereafter LA will be sold house to house and on the streets with comrades probing the possibility of setting up neighborhood price control committees with contacts and by investigating existing organizations. On the basis of this probing the branch will decide next steps after one month. 3) Picketing and leafletizing of a meeting held by a group of South Side Negro landlords was planned for October 30. By its threat of picketing the liberal Negro South Side Parkway Community House, the party found at the last minute that the meeting was cancelled (See LA article Nov. 11). Better personal contact was developed between NAACP head and organizer.

III Membership - a. present - numbers 40, exclusive of 2 comrades ill and unavailable altogether, one since convention, one for one month past.

b. composition -

unionists in industry	-	11
employed (other)	-	11
professional	-	4
housewives	-	5
student	-	7
unemployed	-	1
organizer	-	1

Student composition represents new recruits, advanced female students, one part-time student-worker. The unemployed comrade has student perspective. The "employed (other)" comrades represent 2 comrades having perspective of leaving town soon, 2 poor health, 1 part-time employee, 2 self workers, 2 older comrades in age, 1 industrializable female.

c. All members are in process of being given assignments, according to schedule. Difficulty exists in getting people to do Jimmy Higgins work like IA sales regularly, at least in past. A conscious attempt to obtain highest individual activity according to ability and time is under way in view of past difficulties.

d. recruitment - Since convention 3 new members have been recruited, 2 students, 1 worker who also studies. 1 Negro student has been recruited into non-functioning youth organization, but he will work with college fraction. Turn-over - 5 comrades have been dropped from rolls since time of convention: 2 of them had been inactive in WP beforehand, 2 of them housewives from ex-minority, 1 an ex-minority sympathizer who joined and left. 1 comrade has been transferred to Louisville.

IV. Union - There are two concentrations of 3 each at H and E. First city wide meeting of unionists will be held November 3 to coordinate work and discuss problems. At E the union morale is extremely low, and perspective will probably be to orient towards formation of a third group in union versus CP and incompetents. One comrade is a steward, another (on nights) a delegate to CIO Council, the third just entered the plant and is also on nights. At H our comrades are in leading position in local struggling for bargaining rights versus Stalinist FE in NLRB election. They will both take leading committee posts after victory, but not office, which militants would like. Capable, experienced comrades are in these concentrations. 2 other comrades, who cannot get into them or should not leave present jobs, are active in their locals, one on the educational committee and a CIO Council delegate, the other in an unorganized shop. Possibility of working with a Labor Party committee at R Local is to be investigated.

V. Veterans - 9 comrades are active in 5 chapters of AVC. One was delegate to area AVC convention and ran on slate of defeated anti-Stalinist group for Executive Board. 1 comrade is delegate to area council since convention. Since Stalinists took over completely, our perspective (to be discussed in vets fraction Nov. 3) will probably be to consider what possibilities remain in opposition caucus we have been in, and to consolidate our forces in fewer chapters. 1 comrade has 2-4 possible contacts from his chapter, representing the only possibilities found in this field so far.

2 comrades are not in AVC, one a night worker who is on his union vet committee, the other a worker-student.

VI. Functioning of Executive Committee - Despite long and late meetings being the rule for the Executive Committee, it has accomplished its work commendably under the circumstances, much naturally remaining to be done. The outline of assignments, if carried through, should relieve the organizer and executive comm. members from many of their past headaches. The organizer is just now being able to get down steadily to the kind of political and organizational direction that he thinks necessary, the past period having been dominated by looking for headquarters then managing and working on its construction, pinch-hitting in odd tasks he should not have to do, etc., in addition to his normal work. The social committee has done a wonderful job, involving people in its work and producing excellent socials that have benefitted the party measurably in terms of finances and interesting of sympathizers and contacts... The education committee has planned its work effectively so that visiting comrades from other cities have commented on the high level of reports and discussions.... The finance committee, although having planned its work of assignments to comrades to see financial contacts, has not been able to produce more than \$100 from contacts in 5 months; the major cause being that the leading comrades of the branch have been so occupied with other branch work that time did not permit visiting for funds. This has to be corrected for us to keep afloat in future. The branch treasurer has handled with extreme efficiency the collection and distribution of over \$3,000 in this period.... The contact committee is now going over a list of LA renewals and contacts for assignment. Shields is taking over the chairmanship, relieving the organizer of this task since he has had to fit it in on the run. A list of "hot" contacts is drawn up for recruiting, other contacts to be drawn into work with fractions or into attendance at branch educationals, etc.

VII. Negro work - Properly speaking, there is none, in the sense of a consistent day in and day out plugging. A renewal campaign on a modest scale for LA subs has been under way in Negro housing projects for some weeks. The intention is to concentrate on those renewing, dropping others as contacts... Personal contacts of 2 comrades in shops have attended party meetings or socials... Contact with NAACP has been renewed by organizer in landlord's rent strike threat, after Conference against Terrorist Bombings in which we participated for 2 meetings folded up. One of the two neighborhoods adopted for activity in price control campaign is a large south side housing project where many LA readers live. This should afford us actual entree into Negro work.

VIII. Literature - Sales - report being held up for information from committee head. It has been very good, I might say now.

IX. LA and NI - Ditto, except for last sentence in respect to recent sales.

X. Educational Activity - Educationals advertised to close sympathizers and in LA ads, held in conjunction with branch meetings, are the following: 1) Atomic Energy and Socialism; 2) Review of Kravchenko book; 3) Revival of KKK; 4) Role of Catholic Church in Politics.

Unadvertised branch educations have been: 1) Price Policy (twice); 2) Poland; 3) Jewish - 1 and 1 next week; 4) IKD document to convention; 5) PAC; 6) Morrow position.

During the summer a class on Shachtman book was held on Fridays... A series of 6 classes on Fridays will begin November 8 by Goldman on general problems of Socialism. Public forums, followed by informal social, will be held on alternate Saturday nights.

XI. Public Meetings and Activities - Following public meetings have been held: 1) Unity with SWP Minority; 2) Neighborhood Price Control Meeting - 2000 leaflets; 3) Trotsky Memorial, Erber speaking on Price Control; 4) West Side Palestine meeting and petition campaign; 5) Lynn meeting on discrimination; 6) Nuremberg. A Russian Revolution commemoration meeting is to be held.

The following socials have been held: 1) 2 park picnics; 2) night beach party; 3) outdoor beergarden party; 4) housewarming party; 5) Halloween party.

A Women's Club has been set up, that has a program of lectures every three weeks. About 20 attended the first lecture, mostly non-party women. They held a children's party at headquarters for members and sympathizers' kids - 36 in attendance. They are running a raffle, and want to assist in financial upkeep of office.

A Workers Party Newsletter has been started, to be sent periodically to sympathizers and readers.

Other public activities include participation in the new defunct Conference to Combat Terrorist Bombings and the speech of the organizer at the price control meeting in City Council chambers, reported in LA.

XII. Perspectives for branch - 1) Further consolidation, tightening up and activization along lines of program and schedule attached; 2) entrance into neighborhoods in accordance with price control campaign outlined; 3) possible running of candidate in spring mayoralty-aldermanic elections.

R. Ferguson

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ADDENDUM TO CHICAGO REPORT

* * *

Literature Report

Income from sales of books, pamphlets, NI, bulletins in months of August, September, October	\$82.60
Expenses same period	112.74
Cash on hand (exclusive of this week - Nov. 14)	44.31
Value of stock on hand (good size)	???
Accounts receivable	17.15
Regular bundle 50 copies; approximately 59 subs.	

We do a very good business in literature and NI. The intention is to get it around that we have a good stock of socialist literature, especially on college campuses. The NI drive should certainly net us the prize, as we have good possibilities in many places.

Labor Action director is now Sam Storm, who has just relieved Hillyer who is up to his ears in union work. This last accounts for the fact that the LA bill has increased in these last few weeks to \$23. But stabilization is at hand, what with our projected neighborhood campaign on prices getting under way next week for sure and street sales there, plus at special meetings around the city, unions, forums, etc. Have been running small sub renewal drive with success. Regular bundle 150.

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The previous report omitted reference to student work at two colleges:

College #1- 3 comrades in fraction. Run forum which had 300 at at last meeting on campus problem. Idea is to build up from "easy" start to political matters. Next topic is Third Party, with one of our comrades speaking. We also run Socialist Club. 25 at last meeting. This is a bloc of us with SP, Oehlerite, SWP. Campus is very political and should bring recruits.

College #2- 4 comrades working with large group of close sympathizers (5 people) in organization dominated by SP. Succeeded in getting tabled for further discussion question of excluding Trotskyists, civil rights for fascists, UN. This group is perhaps evolving towards SLID, which presently does not exist.

Robert Ferguson

DETROIT1) Membership:

a) Membership on May 19, 1946 (preconvention).....		30
Out during this period		7
Dropped	1 (student)	
Resigned	1 (worker)	
Expelled	1 "	
Transferred to N.Y.	4	
Members on May 19 who are still members of the Detroit branch		23
Members taken in:		5
Recruits	3 (2 workers, 1 student)	
Trans. from N.Y.	2	
Membership as of November 11, 1946.		28

b) Social composition: (really is "occupation")

Industrial workers:	13	(all UAW)
Unemployed	5	(all women)
White collar	5	" "
Housewives	2	
Students	2	
Full time party	1	
	<u>28</u>	

Men 16 Women 12
White 27 Negro 1

c) All members are active, attend meetings, and pay their dues. There is not a single member who can be listed as "dead wood."

2) Activities:

Our activities in connection with the prices campaign were most intense BEFORE the issuance of the Program of Action. That was because the issue was hottest and the actions organized by the labor movement locally were greatest in June and July. We had speakers (as members of their unions) at one large union mass rally and we distributed many thousands of copies of LABOR ACTION at union rallies. In the period of the party Program of Action our members (some of them) were on union price committees and participated in the buyers' strike picket lines. But the whole thing died out by September or thereabouts. There then ceased to be any mass meetings or mass actions of any kind.

Our comrades organized one (shop) chapter of AVC which has not been very active and one other comrade is active in another AVC chapter (shop) which is controlled by the CP. We have several people on the veterans committee of one local, including the chairman. One of our people reported for a very important committee at a Detroit area UAW veterans conference to which we had three delegates.

Negro work is mainly in connection with the current campaign for a State FEPC. We are supporting a petition drive designed to get 150,000 signatures on an initiative petition for an FEPC bill.

We have had one special problem in the field of Negro work which we are only now beginning to overcome. Gene D. who had been dropped from the party a long time ago was readmitted to party membership in January of this year. It became evident after a while that he had chauvinist ideas which were leading him to adopt an anti-party and irresponsible attitude. We began to call him to account and he presented his resignation which the branch rejected on various grounds. He was soon expelled. Shortly afterwards a new Negro comrade who had been an active trade unionist and a good party member but who had come under Gene D.'s influence resigned. This took place in July and August. To make matters worse, one of our comrades in a moment of anger and tension used a Jim Crow term in speaking of the above new Negro comrade and was suspended from the party. Gene D. has since been carrying on a slander campaign against the party among its Negro contacts and former members. For some time it was difficult for us to get any Negroes to our meetings but at a meeting last night on the FEPC campaign we brought down 6 Negro contacts. In the past two months we have had as many as 50-60 Negro contacts at some of our social affairs. I believe, therefore, that we are working off some of the inevitable ill-effects of our past relations with Gene D. One member of our Executive Committee is a young Negro woman who joined the party a little over one year ago. She shows signs of great promise and should be invaluable to us in party work generally and in Negro work in particular. She has been of special aid in combatting Gene's campaign against us.

Educational Work: This has been one of the weak phases of branch activity. Shortly after the convention we organized a series of discussion and study groups but they all petered out (except one) after a few sessions. However, our branch meetings themselves and our public forums serve a real educational function especially for the newer members. We have not been able to get a functioning Educational Department in the branch since our former educational director ceased to function for personal reasons.

Public Meetings: We have had advertised public meetings as a regular feature of our branch activities for the past 3-1/2 years. Since the convention we have had two "outside" speakers, Erber and Goldman. Both of these meetings were poorly attended. Our public meetings have an unpredictable attendance. The highest we have ever gone, I believe, is about 50. (For comparison: the SWP here, which claims a membership of 100, has had an average attendance of 25-30 at their regular public forums in the past month.) Our social affairs have been better attended than our forums. At one affair in September we had close to 100 people present, but this figure is also unpredictable.

Literature: Our NI bundle is 40. Our LA bundle is 100. We sell enough of our NI's to cover the cost of the bundle including the unsold returns from newsstands. And we make a slight profit in addition.

LABOR ACTION sales have been very good WHEN WE HAVE REALLY TRIED TO SELL THE PAPER. Newsstand sales are so close to the zero mark as to be completely useless. But sales at meetings are sur-

prisingly successful. On one occasion we sold 300 papers and on another 200. But for one reason or another our scheduled sales at meetings have not taken place per schedule. We will correct this.

I do not have a full report on general party literature on hand but I know without quoting statistics that we have been moderately successful in selling pamphlets and books. The Detroit literature debt which is regularly and insistently reported in party communications is due in large part to a tremendous over-supply of "Security and a Living Wage" which we ordered during the GM strike but which we, for reasons beyond OUR control, could not sell in such large quantities. In addition, we have a big supply of "Socialism, the Hope of Humanity."

3) Fractions and Shop Work: (All UAW)

In fraction 1	5
" 2	2
" 3	2
" 4	2
Individuals in shops	2

In addition, several of our women who are not working at present, maintain their membership in their local unions and are active in the UAW in one way or another.

At present we have only one shop steward. In addition, we have the chairmanship of a local veterans committee. One of our members is chairman and another is secretary of shop AVC chapters. In fraction 1, our members play an important role in discussions on the union floor.

Not one of our women comrades is working in a shop now. They have all been laid off and it is very difficult to get replaced. Some of our men have been able to accumulate a little bit of seniority and some have their veteran's seniority. But we are all still way down on the list.

Several women comrades were active in a campaign of DSR women for their reinstatement as employees of the Detroit Street Railways. A couple of contacts were made for the party.

4) Executive Committee: The relation of our Executive Committee to the work of the branch is exemplary (with one qualification). All the details of branch activity are handled at the Executive Committee meeting. It makes all the necessary and proper decisions without throwing minor and technical details into the branch for discussion. As a result, our "business" meetings are either short or, if not short, permit the branch members to discuss important organizational or political problems. The shortcoming is this: not enough members of our Executive Committee are in charge of some important phase of branch work.

5) State of the branch: I will not go into detail on this point. One fact stands out above all else. The number of shop contacts brought to party meetings, socials, etc. is at the lowest point in our history except for the period in which the branch was just getting started. All the people who come to our party affairs

come as a result of general party activity or of PAST shop work. We can name only ONE worker who has come to ANY of our party functions in the past five months. This is an unbelievable and "impossible" fact. It is utterly absurd to attempt to formulate some kind of theory about the stage of the class struggle that would explain (away) this fact. One might be able to explain why we have only 15 instead of 1500 shop contacts on this basis. But it could not explain why we have zero instead of 15. This problem is to be discussed at our branch meeting on November 17. I reserve comment until the plenum.

Ben Hall

BUFFALO

1. STATE OF THE BRANCH

A. We have a fair size, well-decorated headquarters. We pay \$35 a month for rent.

B. Branch morale is high.

2. MEMBERSHIP

A. 16 members - 1 not in good standing.

B. 8 work in shops; 4 are housewives; 3 white collar; 1 functionary.

C. 13 are fully active; 1 merely keeps himself in "good standing;" 1 is tied down to his business (is in good standing); 1 is in bad standing.

D. Two of the above members joined this month (November).

3. TRADE UNION CONCENTRATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

A. There is not likely to be any further industrialization.

B. We have eight members in 5 shops divided in the following manner: 3, 2, 1, 1, 1.

There is nothing doing in steel (for us).

A. is highly speculative.

B. is highly speculative.

C. represents a great deal of our contacts and activity.

D. seems to hold the most promise at this time.

Our aim shall be to try to transfer some of those comrades who are in the less promising plants into the better shops, unless further developments indicate otherwise.

Since the convention we engaged in two "major" trade union situations. (1) A, where one member was involved; (2) E, where no members were directly involved. As A, netted us little more than a stimulus to branch activity, the reactivation and then the deactivation of our member involved, a few headaches and just a spark of hope, I will refer you to the minutes and organizer's reports on the subject.

We feel that we did a good job on the E. situation insofar as we were able. I am sending along with this report the documents we drew up to support the actions taken. The minutes of the branch and the organizer's reports give the minute details of the case.

4. VETERANS WORK

A. We have not succeeded in placing all of our eligible members in veterans organizations.

B. The extent of our activity has been the placing of two members in the AVC. They have only 1 chapter in Buffalo. It was a dead

chapter for some time but it has been given a stimulus in the last period by the entrance of a Cannonite, our two, and an increase in membership. We led a fight on the Minority Parties Resolution (discussed later in this report) and gained a considerable following. There are possibilities of recruitment in this chapter.

5. FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS:

A. All that need be said of the executive committee is that it is composed of four of the most responsible members. You have the minutes of its meetings.

B. The Trade Union Committee functions well. Finance, Educational, Headquarters, Labor Action, Social - equally so.

6. NEGRO WORK

The United Workers Movement has had no connection with the Buffalo branch to this date. Comrade Jones has informed me that the UWM, after what was virtually a complete collapse, is attempting to reform itself. Any serious political discussion over this organization, any dispute over program, methods, relationship to the party, faction work or domination, any document that you may devise separately or in mutual agreement relating to the UWM would be unnecessary at this time.

7. LITERATURE SALES, NI, LA.

When the branch was reorganized literature sales were zero. LA, NI, pamphlets and books were piled in a mess. We have made some definite improvement and have plans to increase our present endeavors.

1. All bulletins are being sold.
2. We have placed LA on newsstands.
3. We have increased our NI bundle from 7 to 15 and are selling them.
4. Below is a list of literature sold during months of September and October.

Sept.: 30 Labor Actions 5 New International 3 Fight for Socialism 4 Role of the Party 10 Socialism - the Hope of Humanity 1 Role of the Trade Unions 4 Plenty for All	Oct.;; 39 Labor Action 5 New International 2 Role of the Party 2 Role of the T.U. 2 Fight for Socialism 1 War and the Workers 10 Socialism - The Hope of Humanity.
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8. REPORT ON PUBLIC ACTIVITY IN GENERAL AND PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Public Meetings:

a. Erber Meeting: This was our first public meeting. It was the first step after a complete reorganization of the internal branch life. We sold 117 tickets at 35¢ each. There were about 25 worker contacts present. You know the details of the meeting. It was an excellent stimulus to future activity.

b. We netted about \$25 on a social which was attended by some

40 people. The social suffered from the fact that we had been concentrating heavily on the E. situation at the time.

c. Goldman meeting: As the plans for this meeting were just written up in the minutes of our last Executive Committee, you will get the full story from them. I am enclosing the leaflet and ticket we put out for the meeting. There will also be a letter and a novel "interest card." We expect to make Goldman's visit a real political event in Buffalo. We are estimating a minimum expenditure of \$70 for the meeting.

d. All of our branch meetings on Sunday nights are open to the public. They are getting larger. While the number of contacts is not constant, we have had as many as 11 outsiders to a branch meeting.

Public Activities in General:

a. The first public activity of the branch was a sale of LA and some pamphlets at a "Win-the-Peace" rally. It was quite successful.

b. The second chance was afforded us by the arrival of Norman Thomas in Buffalo. What follows below is a long story. I want to point out here that we were able to: (1) get the name of the party in the "public eye;" (2) get the name of the organizer in the "public eye"; (3) work in a united front with the SWP, SP (the SLP and Liberal Party did nothing), Civil Liberties Union, AVC and various other liberals; (4) win sympathy from some politically active people for the WP and away from the SWP; (6) to expose the actions of the SWP in this affair to the satisfaction of the other participants.

At the meeting called by Norman Thomas, I called the attention of the group to the barring of the WP from the Harlem Congressional ballot. The group recognized the validity of the WP case and its direct relationship to the cases against the SP, SWP and SLP. The body approved my request that the case of the WP and the Liberal Party be incorporated in the resolution. The resolution was passed by the body before the additional section was read - with the general understanding that our case would be mentioned. It was only after the "steering committee," composed of one representative from each organization involved, met that the additional section was read, at my request. Kitt has referred to the Workers Party and the Liberal Party as "other independent parties in New York." A representative of the Textile Workers Union demanded that the names of the two parties be placed in the resolution. The SP and SLP agreed.

When the resolution was finally mimeographed, the names of the parties appeared in it as follows: Socialist Party, Socialist Workers Party, Industrial Government Party - but by a mere "oversight" an amalgam was made with the "Workers and Liberal parties."

The original press release written by Cheyney of the SP began-- "A protest meeting of FIVE political parties..." The body of the release referred not only to the 3 state wide cases but also to the Congressional cases. The final press release which did appear in the press was in the spirit of Kitt's first attempt to ignore the WP case and its connection with this affair. The final press release

not only ignored the WP but contained false information as to who composed the "steering committee." We were not only represented at all the "steering committee" meetings but we fully participated in discussion and took on assignments and duties. We were also instrumental in getting the AVC approval of our joint action.

No one on the committee accepted responsibility for the press release. The steering committee actually was composed of Kitt from the SWP, one of their members from C., one of their members from the AVC, two unaffiliated members of the AVC, an SP representative, Comrade Mason and myself. The steering committee meetings were held at the SWP headquarters. They thought it was their show. The SLP did nothing and did not even put in an appearance at the protest meeting. The Liberal Party came only to the protest meeting itself. I continually pressed for the inclusion of the WP case in the propaganda of the committee and in the coming meeting. The SWP organizer had the gall to argue against including the WP case on the call for the protest meeting because (1) there was not enough space on the leaflet and (2) it would confuse the issue! It was only after lengthy argument in which we had the support of all the others that we managed to get the leaflet to read "Five political parties..."

The next difficulty came up over the proposed speakers list at the meeting. The SWP organizer had been talking about having as broad a representation as possible from the various organizations in the city. On the final meeting day he came in with a list of speakers which included at least five members of the SWP who were to speak in the names of other organizations. This proposal did not include an address from the party representatives. I did not care too much if they packed the meeting as long as there would be one person speaking in the name of the Workers Party. The Socialist Party representative and another influential person on the committee, who was actually the only source of getting the liberal organizations to back us, refused to accept the SWP "slate." The accepted agenda follows: Chairman; a minister; representatives of all parties (5 min. each); UAW Director (10 min.); Civil Liberties Union (10 min.); Bell local (10 min.); AVC (10 min.).

A revised resolution was drawn up to present to the meeting. We had a slight altercation over this also. But as you see it is the clearest expression of the WP so far. It was like pulling teeth all the way through. All those who worked at one time or another with the committee saw the hypocritical attitude of the SWP and their animosity towards us. The meeting was no great success but we reached all those who did come and at least there is a growing consciousness that the Workers Party exists. To cap it all, the SWP is sending to all affiliate unions, councils, etc., not the final resolution, not the intermediary resolution but the ORIGINAL resolution passed by the Bell local which does not mention our name. At the steering committee meetings Kitt had argued that the old, original resolution had to be brought up to date. I am convinced that they are distributing the original resolution because our name does not appear in it. The fact that it was passed by the Bell local in its original form and that it is the Bell local which is financing the distribution of the resolution is no argument because the local was in full accord with the revised resolution and would have adopted it just as the protest meeting did. To my mind the actions of the SWP organizer would be laughable if it were not for the fact that this kind of man is all that holds the SWP together in Buffalo.

9. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

The Educational Committee sent in a report to the National Educational Department several weeks ago.

Our educational program is divided into these three parts:

- (a) Branch Educationals -- This month's topics were as follows: Wallace vs. Byrnes, Germany, Current Events Quiz, United Nations, The Struggle in the CIO. Most of the comrades in the branch participate in the discussion and many of the contacts do as well.
- (b) Internal Classes -- (i) An 8 week course for beginners.
(ii) A course for members on the program of the party.
- (c) External Classes -- (i) A course in Marxist theory for contributing sympathizers.
(ii) Trade union class for contacts.

Herbert Ferris

* * * *

AKRON

1. The State of the Branch. The branch is in a slightly disorganized state for a number of reasons which will be indicated. First of all, it is desirable to say that it is not disorganized as compared to its existence some five or six months prior to the last convention. It is disorganized compared to what it should be and what we desire it to be. First and foremost among the reasons for this is the loss of the headquarters and the near impossibility of getting a new location because of lack of vacancies and, more important, the exceedingly high cost of renting such a place. It has been necessary for the Branch to meet at the home of Comrade Whitney and so the meetings have been cramped and very undesirable.

Secondly, among the reasons for the disorganization is the fact that certain of our people work undesirable hours, thus precluding a normal party life, limiting social contact with each other and necessitating Sunday meetings.

Thirdly, two of the oldest and leading comrades have been involved in work consuming almost 100% of their time for the past two and a half to three months. This work was entered into after consultation with the party nationally and locally. The prospects are that the work in which they are engaged will abate somewhat during this coming period.

On the positive side of the question there has taken place the real integration of two new comrades and a further integration and education of three of the comparatively older ones. Two people, one new and one with about three and a half years in the movement (Lyons and Smith, respectively) have shown remarkable development
their understanding of party's

principles and program and their ability to function as representatives of Branch.

The Branch has conducted fairly regularized sub drives for LA ever since the time of the National Sub Drive and have not been altogether unsuccessful. We have conducted regular social affairs that have paid for themselves and have netted the branch a modest sum of money. More important than that, however, has been the closer association between the Branch membership and the contacts as a result of these affairs.

The main activity of the Branch has been in the TU movement and has steadily become more and more successful. In "A" we have four people. Three of them are active Trade Unionists who are gradually forming individual groups around themselves. In that Local we have two prospective members. One of our people has just been elected to an executive body of the local and enjoys a prestige, so to speak, that cannot help but be enhanced in the next period. All four of our people there are Committeemen.

2. Report on the Activities of the Branch.

A. Regular Trade Union work. We have a functioning fraction of four people in one URW plant. One person more or less isolated in another URW plant and two in a UAW plant who at present are not functioning. In the first plant mentioned we are gaining in influence and have two prospective members.

B. Classes. Since the convention we have conducted three classes for contacts, all of four weeks duration. These classes were not too successful primarily because of the absence of facilities for holding them. One was held in a park and the other two in a private home. We conducted internally an intensive educational program on the differences between the WP and the SWP. This was necessary because of local conflict between the two Parties involving not only our membership but our contacts. In this encounter we were successful and at present there is no unnatural relationship (!) between our people and those of the SWP. In general, our relationship with the SWP has been very fraternal with no undue friction. They have discussed joint work with us and at one time one of their leading people suggested that we amalgamate the two branches (under their Party name of course) as an experiment on the unity question.

C. Our activity around the price and housing campaign has been limited to talking to contacts, work in the TU and talking to people during house to house sales. We had one meeting with Erber speaking and we will have one two days hence with Goldman speaking. Other than that the Branch was completely unable to carry out the directives of the NO on this campaign. This can be explained in great part by saying that we have absolutely no one who can represent us publicly. This is not by personal choice of the various people involved (several of whom would be only too glad to function openly and give up other work that now stands in the way of that functioning) but by decision of the Branch after repeated discussion with members of the NO and the NC. Our chief difficulty and problem here is that lack. We need a full time person in Akron and we need him now so that we may capitalize on those opportunities that now exist and many of which are slipping away or have completely disappeared. In the

past we have said and rightly so, that we can't afford a full time person but it has now become more than evident that whether we can afford one or not, we must have one. If necessary, we will have to sacrifice everything else that we may have an experienced and competent person to represent us publicly and speak for us.

D. Concerning the Program of Action. The Akron Branch had formulated its own program of action (mimeographed on six pages) covering a period of six months, prior to the appearance of the one drawn up by the NC. This program was forwarded to the NO and subsequently proved to be in harmony with that of the NC, though much shorter, lacking the sections evaluating the historical period, and more localized in nature. This program has been followed with the obstacles set forth elsewhere. We had functioning committees for Social work, Relief work, Hall, Literature, Education, Trade Union, etc. During the past six to eight weeks, the Educational Committee has been inoperative because of no place to operate. The Hall Committee has been inoperative for the same reason. But the other committees, by and large, continue to function.

As a result of the Program of Action, more discipline has been introduced into the Branch, more people can be depended upon, and most important of all, more can now be considered real Party people.

3. Membership. We have thirteen members in Akron and two who are considered members-at-large by the Branch (located in Lorain, Ohio). Three of the thirteen are completely inactive. The thirteen break down as follows:

- 7 Trade Unionists all in the CIO
- 3 Housewives, two of whom work in places other than industry
- 1 Male employed in a department store for reasons of health and race
- 1 Social worker whose situation is already known by the NO
- 1 Student (High school, inactive)

Active membership: We have six people who are really active with five more who are semi-active in varying degrees.

Recruitment and Turnover: We have dropped four people since shortly before the convention. Actually dropped three since the convention. The two mentioned as members-at-large were transferred to the Akron Branch and we got one former member back through a transfer from Boston.

4. Trade Union Concentration. This has already been dealt with.

5. Veterans' Work. We have two veterans in the AVC. One is active and the other is not because of activity in Union. The other two vets work six to midnight and are unable to attend vet meetings and have never joined. Our active person has just been elected delegate to the district convention against the opposition of the CP and their local candidate for Congress. This active comrade has been engaged in fighting the CP in that organization and has considerable influence in the local group which unfortunately is small.

6. Functioning of the EC and Individual Departments. The individual

departments have already been mentioned. The EC has been hampered by all the things that have been mentioned only more so than the Branch as a whole, because all the difficulties referred to are difficulties involving the members of the EC themselves. Despite this the EC has failed to meet on only one occasion and on that it had a partial meeting. Other than that it has discharged its duties of giving both political and organizational leadership to the Branch. Its members are the most active and dependable on the whole.

7. Negro Work. This work has been limited to work in the TU and to the efforts of our one Negro comrade who has succeeded in making LA readers of some four or five Negroes. We have at least two prospective Negro people whom we hope to have at the Goldman meeting. These two people are former SWP members who dropped out because they were demoralized by the local SWP.

8. Sales of LA and NI. As reported elsewhere we have conducted regular sub drives and house to house distributions of LA with some success. For a period we had the possibility of distributing to Union meetings and did so. The comrade utilized for that purpose is now inactive and our distributions have been limited therefore to house to house. We recently initiated a drive for the NI and shortly thereafter the NO initiated one. We set individual quotas at that time. Each Branch member was required to subscribe himself and each was given an initial quota of one sub from an outsider. To date this has netted some five or six subs.

9. Educational Activity. Already reported upon elsewhere.

10. Perspectives of the Branch. The perspective of the Branch is a good one provided we can get some assistance. We have two contacts now attending branch meetings. We have a number of others who are in the category of perspective members and with the aid of an Organizer who could tie the Branch together into a more cohesive whole, and who could help us to get a new headquarters we would stand the possibility of recruiting some of these people. Our perspectives in the TU field are exceedingly good. We should show substantial results there in the next year. The financial outlook is very good. No discussion of this will be entered into here. Suffice it to say that the branch is now in a position to liquidate all its debts to the NO and send additional money. The Akron Branch will grow in the next period.

George Whitney

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SAN PEDRO

November 17, 1946.

Dear Comrade Gould:

I need not go into great detail on the activity of the branch since the convention. Letters from Hal and Rickie and my own unforgivably infrequent correspondence have given you a fairly rounded view of the work here. I must add, however, that we are not disbanding the branch, nor do we intend to even after Rickie and Lucy leave. I assume that you know of Rickie's intention to return East;

Lucille has not yet put in her request for a transfer, but she definitely will do so within the next month. That will leave us with Roland and Bart in Longshore, Jack in UAW, Jimmy waiting for his longshore book, Helen and Ann not in industry and Sam in a small shop without trade union affiliation. Jimmy was in the UAW with me for a brief period but maintains that he cannot endure factory life - assembly line for any long period of time.

I cannot be too hopeful about the perspectives for our branch but neither am I as pessimistic as I was three months ago. We have to live here and we might as well do the best with the material at hand. Even if our work will have to be of the most modest sort, we shall probably maintain some kind of organization. Of course, if I move into Los Angeles and one of the longshoremen leaves the area, the situation will change but we will come to that in good time. The most important task will be to weld the six or seven people into a unit - if nothing else - an internal educational group, which I have not been able to do during the last four-five months. I do not wish to emphasize the personality problem (personal home problems, etc.) but that becomes a determining factor in a branch that is not functioning well. I confess that I could not give that inspirational spark that is often needed to balance other factors that are present at all times in one shape or another. Elections for new organizer will take place at the end of the year.

For the information of the N.C. I list briefly the activities as requested in your directive of last month.

1) We made one attempt to participate in a local consumers' committee. The committee was controlled by the Stalinists. Our representative (from longshore) functioned until the CP let the group die a natural death when the national buyers' committees faded out quietly. The committee will undoubtedly be revived if and when rent control is abolished. I will do my best to get into the work somehow.

Actually, that is the extent of our work along the price and housing campaign. We felt that we could not hold any public meetings successfully or otherwise agitate for any actions with the forces we have. Personally, I feel that no amount of publicity could have aroused a generally apathetic public, griping, to be sure, but not yet willing to participate in any action. The fact is that AVC started a campaign but had to drop it for lack of public support or enthusiasm. The CP did practically nothing.

2) a - The only important instant of industrialization (I was never out - I merely shifted) is my own case. I was laid off when work in longshore became slack and hired in at A. I have been there for four months now but it is too early to tell what can be done. I have no party contacts but I am slowly making some headway among the trade union activists. I am secretary of a rank and file contract committee which is drawing up suggestions for the new contract. The SWP has two people in the plant; the Stalinists have a larger but stupid fraction. Work among ex-GI's with little trade union background (or interest) is not the easiest or most satisfactory but it is too early to make any definitive statement.

b - The longshore work is at a stalemate. The men in the industry have been digging in for a long seige and the strike has none of the dynamic quality of early maritime struggles. B and R

are trying their best to keep body and soul together. Whether it is a case of congenital inability to do party work or lack of enthusiasm for the party (or both) I do not know; the fact is that they have done little during the strike period to bring around contacts or sell literature or anything. B. is especially peeved at McKinney and LABOR ACTION for their failure to feature anything on the CMU or even take a position on the CMU. McKinney wrote to me last week that he will write to us as soon as the P.C. adopts a line on the Committee. I am also annoyed at the lack of information (or interest in) on an organization of a quarter of a million workers. As you know, B. sent in a long document outlining the opinion of the maritime fraction on the question of CMU vs. SIU-SUP.

Fraction work of any systematic kind is practically non-existent. I am too exhausted from work to keep plugging or writing on the subject, especially since I am not active in the industry.

3) LABOR ACTION is being sold at a local shipyard where we were formerly influential but where we have no one now. Sales have been dropping off week by week. We sold as high as 28 in one week. Last week sales totalled 7. This is partly due to a recent layoff. We shall continue to sell here as long as we can. We attempted a few sales at the longshore hiring hall. They are not too successful there. But with resumption of work we shall continue if we have anyone to sell the papers.

We shall do our best to scrape up a few subs for the NI - about half a dozen. We have been most successful in the field of renewals for LABOR ACTION. The branch has been fairly regular about assignments each week to visit a dozen old subscribers. Thus far we average somewhat under 50% - which is not too bad.

4) Education - Because of the irregular schedules of some of the members - picket duty, night work and the like - we have not held regular branch meetings, therefore, irregular educations.

5) Finances - Rickie sent in a detailed report. At the moment I am the only working member of the branch and so contributions and dues have taken a sharp drop.

A final note: You have no idea, Natie, how despairing of hope one can become when the desire to function is there but where circumstances preclude any kind of personal enthusiasm, let alone lending encouragement to others to work for the party. I admit that several months ago I was in a despondent state of mind where even the thought of leaving industry entered my mind. Call it petty bourgeois origin if you will (which is true) but I felt as if I were trying to chip away at a two ton slab of granite with a three ounce hammer. The only satisfaction could come from reading and studying and the exhausting assembly line made even that difficult. I have regained some sense of proportion about the work (if only for the sake of retaining my equilibrium) and I hope the party will be able to make use of some (modest) talents I possess. If San Pedro proves impossible, then I will try to move to Los Angeles. At any rate, I do not intend to go back to New York or move elsewhere, so you can count on one (more or less) stable, "native" member.

Fraternally,
Jack Bront

CLEVELAND

At present the state of the Cleveland Branch is, in my opinion, very good. The activity which the branch is undertaking is very modest but nevertheless substantial. The main emphasis is being laid upon laying a solid groundwork for future activity. This in view of our disorganization during the war. Morale is high and there is little left of the bickering and pettiness that once was present.

As far as activity around the price campaign is concerned, we were in no position to participate actively in this Party campaign. However, we are not sleeping on this score. It is just now possible that we may become involved in some price activity.

Our activities around the Program of Action have been better. Perhaps what has already been accomplished may seem small and insignificant but this you can better judge for yourself as I expand specifically upon our various activities. I have consciously been attempting to direct our activity along one path in particular -- that of laying the groundwork for future participation in the daily struggles of the workers. At the same time although we have put less emphasis upon individual contacting, literature, forums, etc., we have by no means ignored these activities.

At present we have 11 members in the branch, 10 of whom are active. The other is Anderson who is in school. The social composition is poor but will improve. At present it is primarily petty bourgeois with only a couple with purely proletarian backgrounds. We have recruited three comrades since the convention.

On trade union concentration we have at present 4 comrades in the largest UAW shop in Cleveland. We have 3 at another UAW shop and a single comrade in another UAW shop. There is one comrade in the Transit Union AFL. One fraction has been formally organized. It is not yet active and meets only occasionally in order to exchange information and to discuss union developments.

We now have several comrades in a proletarian chapter of the AVC. This chapter was just organized and our comrades will have no difficulty in activating themselves. This they will do.

The branch executive committee is functioning well. The Executive Committee is accepting its responsibilities and is carrying them out and is functioning smoothly. Our literature and financial departments are in capable hands and are functioning very well. Our youth department is very good so far as the director is concerned. We have a serious disagreement among the three comrades presently assigned to youth work as to the perspective of the SYL here in Cleveland. We are in the process of trying to resolve this difficulty which is hindering our youth work.

Negro work outside of that being done in the SYL consists almost entirely of maintaining a large number of LABOR ACTION subscribers and of selling them more advanced literature such as NEW INTERNATIONAL and "Plenty for All." There is only one serious attempt being made to recruit a Negro contact at the present time.

Our sale of literature is on the increase. This includes

factory sales as well as newsstand sales. So far, however, the sales do not cover the cost of our bundle order and the branch has to go out of its way to raise the difference. Our promotional work on LABOR ACTION and NEW INTERNATIONAL sales is done well. For example, we have five or a third of our quota of NEW INTERNATIONAL subs already.

Our educational activity consists of the following: weekly educationals on current topics following the branch meeting; a weekly advanced class for members and advanced sympathizers and contacts. The Party is teaching a weekly class to the YSL.

On public meetings, etc., we have attempted only two: The Erber meeting and the Goldman meeting. The Erber meeting was poorly attended while the Goldman meeting showed a marked improvement. The composition of both meetings was poor. This is no surprise or disappointment. We are also starting a series of monthly forums.

The perspectives of the branch are in my opinion the following: to become workers in the shops and active trade unionists. This will take some time. The work will be slow. There will be no actual benefits to the Party for sometime from this work and this is our main work. There will be increased activity in the AVC which may show more results much sooner than the other work. There will be some recruiting but not very much. It will consist of an occasional LABOR ACTION subscriber and other contacts we meet through sympathizers, etc. The prospects are for more and better LABOR ACTION and NEW INTERNATIONAL sales. Education and Negro work will continue on much the same basis as it has been the last six months. Our problem will remain a two-fold one for some time. First to become involved in trade union work and in the day to day struggles of the workers. Second, to change the social composition of the branch through the recruitment of workers through our trade union work and activity. The problem cannot be solved quickly nor easily; however, it will be solved in time.

H. Paxon

* * *

PHILADELPHIABranch Activity

Branch activity related to the price and housing campaign consisted essentially of two things: (1) the organization of a Consumers and Tenants' League, and (2) a meeting for Ernest Erber on the question of prices. The CTL was organized on a neighborhood basis by our comrades and former members of the organization. It conducted excellent, militant actions; its work and life, however, were inevitably circumscribed by the size of the membership and the absence of any real movement among the unions. A middling meeting was organized for Comrade Erber, at which our program on prices was presented. That we generally were not able to do more on this question can be laid to our lack of influence in the unions, caused by our absolute smallness and by the job shifts which took place at this time.

During this period the two branches which had been created prior to the convention were merged into one. These two branches had originally been created to facilitate union work and to help obviate personal clashes. The industrial situation having changed, personal relations having bettered themselves somewhat, and the overhead of maintaining two branches having increased to an undesirable point, the two branches were merged with salutary effect. This consolidation was a necessary prerequisite to the healthy growth of the organization.

In the same period a new headquarters, superior in almost all respects to the old one, was rented and renovated. This necessitated a great deal of work, which disrupted normal activity for a while, but the results in terms of finding a suitable home for our organization, which could be used as a real social and political center, will justify the effort expended. Philadelphia now has a fine headquarters whose utility will be demonstrated obviously in future work.

The chief impediment to the internal consolidation of Philadelphia, which has been a serious problem for the past year remains the conduct of a number of comrades in the Philadelphia branch. Despite the five months which have elapsed since the convention, a sharp line of cleavage manifests itself on almost all branch matters. With several as yet inconclusive though welcomed exceptions the attitude of some of these comrades may be expressed as follows: apathy in branch work, contempt for the party, admiration for the SWP, personal hostility, and the maintenance of a brutal campaign of slander, polemical fury, and personal vindictiveness unparalleled in my experience in the Trotskyist movement. The atmosphere is such as to guarantee the loss of any worker recruit. Workers cannot be recruited in Philadelphia as long as the present conditions exist. The possibilities of recruiting do exist--but they will never be realized under present conditions.

Further aspects of the implementing of the program of action are covered in the following specific sections of this report.

Membership

The book membership consists of 32 persons. Of this number 5 will undoubtedly be dropped from membership for inactivity. They have

heretofore been maintained on the books in the hope that a change in their job status or their personal situation, or the establishment of the new headquarters would permit their reintegration. This now seems unlikely. Of the remaining 28, two work at night, making participation in normal party work difficult, one comrade ships and can be considered a member of the Philadelphia branch only formally, and another is engaged in sports activity. This leaves a group of 26 who are able to participate in branch activity. Of these 26 the brunt of the branch load is borne at most by 10 people. The remainder for reasons of family, or personal demoralization, are, to one degree or another, unable to come up to what should be a really acceptable norm of party activity.

Of the 32 book members, 17 are working at a trade and are in unions. One skilled professional is in a union. There are, additionally: 1 waitress (unorganized); 3 white collar workers (unorganized); 3 persons self-employed; 1 person in vocational school; 4 persons unemployed; 1 person engaged in sports activity; and 1 party organizer.

There are two Negroes in the branch. There are six women.

We have recruited no one since the convention. In that period two persons resigned--both were veterans who desired to go back to school.

Trade Union Activity

The possibility of large scale trade union work, as had been done during the war, slowly disappeared with the decline of the shipyard in which we had our major concentration. This decline, which began after V-J day, was spread out over the intervening period up to the present. Out of this experience we have retained actually only three people. The large number of others who were recruited, and of whom we heard considerable noise, were either people who were recruited on a rather primitive basis, came to one or two meetings and then disappeared, or were persons who stuck around and ultimately dropped out because we could not give them the "action" they desired or because of the branch atmosphere.

The task in the past period has been to get back into industry. Naturally, under the conditions of industrial reconversion we were not able to make concentrations of the former type. The unemployment problem among the more active members has been essentially licked, however, and elemental work in various unions begun. Two of our members have already been involved in organizing or in strike actions in leading capacities. Two of our leading people are now unfortunately on night work. When the possibilities arise for making concentrations in selected industries it is intended to do so. To date the most fruitful work in terms of contacts for the party has been by one of the women comrades in radio.

The following is a breakdown of the trade union situation in the Philadelphia branch:

<u>Union</u>	<u>No. In</u>	<u>Positions held</u>
Sheet Metal Workers (AFL)	1	
UE (CIO)	3	Steward (1)
Metal Polishers (AFL)	2	
UAW (CIO)	1	
USA (CIO)	3	Negot. Comm(2)
IUMSWA (CIO)	1	Steward (1)
Typographical (AFL)	1	
ROA	1	
Cooks and Waiters (AFL)	1	
UOPWA (CIO)	1	
District 50	1	
Electrical Switch Gear (Ind)	1	
Vocational School	1	
White collar workers(unprganized)	3	
Self-employed	3	
Unemployed	4	
Waitress(unorganized)	1	
Sportsman	1	
Party organizer	1	

Of the Negro comrades, one is in the UE, another in the IUMSWA, and two are unemployed.

Of the women comrades, one is in the UE, one is in the Typograph. union, one is a waitress (unorganized), one is a white collar worker (unorganized), and one is a Negro comrade previously mentioned as unemployed.

At present, control of the trade union work is vested in the executive committee, which has proved an unsatisfactory substitute for a capable trade union director. In general, the work has been poorly co-ordinated, which, if tolerable during the recent lull, is certainly no longer so.

Veterans' Work

There are ten veterans in the branch, of whom all but three are members of the AVC. Work in the AVC, or in any other veterans' field, has been virtually non-existent, however.

Functioning of the Executive Committee and Individual Departments

The executive committee, despite the cleavage previously noted in the branch, works somewhat better than the branch as a whole, though even here some of the comrades work rather as an opposition than as leaders of the branch.

Individual departments:

One of the prime advances of the recent period has been the stabilization of the finances under the directorship of Jack Brad. In comparison with the pre-convention period, average remittances to the NO have increased 50 to 75%. Average income and expenditures

have risen about 100 per cent. The excellent work done has opened up possibilities which otherwise would have been unavailable to us. There is room for considerable improvement, however, the financial load being distributed inequitably; the load is borne by a relatively small number of the most conscientious comrades.

Relief work, which was in the doldrums for a considerable period, was recently got moving again almost solely through the work of Joe Arnold. Since September 1st, two ten-dollar food packages have been sent abroad, as well as twelve packages of clothes. Relief has been supported in good part by the comrades, the direct involvement of sympathizers having proved difficult. A large segment of money raised recently, however, was secured through a social held at a sympathizer's house. The only other activity run in support of relief, a public meeting on the subject, "Hunger in Europe," was a failure.

The youth work, which flourished during the vacation period, came to an abrupt stop with the beginning of the academic year. Activity now virtually has to begin from scratch. The youth group consists of four dual members and three youth members. These are augmented by four persons going to school near Philadelphia, who are able to function to a limited degree on some occasions. Good contacts at present number about ten. Forums are held every Friday. Sunday classes have had indifferent success. A beginning is being made at work in one of the local universities. The major burden of the considerable effort expended on the youth is shared by two dual members, Olga Daniels and Tom Gordon.

In the past the youth group was isolated from WP life and felt no particular responsibility to the party or interest in it. This condition has fortunately somewhat broken down in the recent period.

The basic requisite for the youth is a foundation in high school and working class youth--access to which are currently lacking. College elements in this period of relative economic stability have proved a rather unproductive source of recruits for the youth.

Negro Work

There has been almost no organized Negro work. Both of our Negro comrades have six children apiece, which imposes problems of existence which make it difficult for them to participate fully in party life. Both do not possess the requisite political background necessary for real work. Considerable contact has been made with Negroes, however, via LA subscription drives. What is necessary is a real follow-up drive based from our new headquarters which is in a large Negro neighborhood. The possibilities are definitely good.

Literature

To the excellent work of Frank Harper is exclusively due the extension and stabilization of all phases of literature work. The following tabulation speaks for itself:

Sales, September 15th to November 15th

Workers Party Publications	\$17.05	(retail price)
Labor Action Book Service	9.90	
Builders and Bulletins	3.60	(retail price)
Other books and pamphlets	24.45	
Total, books and pam.	<u>\$55.00</u>	

Labor Action Bundle Order

Weekly bundle: 40

Three bundles for a special distribution were ordered; one of 100 copies, another of 100 copies, and a third of 500.

New International

Bundle order increased from 20 to 35.

Subscriptions

During the two-month period indicated, 52 new subscriptions and renewals were secured, as well as eight NI subscriptions. About 220 LA subs expired in this period, and 8 NI subs.

Newsstands

The NI is now on 4 newsstands, an increase of 3. Last month we sold 11 NI's on newsstands. The LA is on 6 newsstands, an increase of 4. Last week we sold 8 copies on the stands.

Literature Debt Reduction

	September 15th	November 15th
New International	\$91.84	\$77.00
Labor Action	7.20	0.00
Workers Party Publications	15.05	10.00
Bulletins and Builders	<u>41.45</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Totals	155.54	112.00

Total reduction: \$43.54

Branch Education

Branch educations have been irregular. This has been almost wholly due not to lack of prepared lectures and discussions, but to interminable meetings which began late and moved forward with every inch of the terrain hotly contested. This can and will be corrected. Branch lectures have been on a variety of subjects: "The Death of the OPA," "The Elections in Georgia," "The General Strike," "The Stalemate in France," "The Polish Referendum," etc. The chief difficulty is that they have not been regularly given.

We are currently bringing to a close a six weeks school. There courses were taught: "The History of the Fourth International," by Arthur Parks and Jame M. Fenwick; "The History of the CIO," by Jack Brad; and "The Fight for Socialism," by Jame M. Fenwick. The

classes were not generally successful, being small and having too few non-party members present. The reasons for the failure of the classes were: poor organization and the intervention caused by moving to the new headquarters. The classes were well given, however, were followed with considerable interest by the participants, and deserved a better response.

Public Activity

Public activity of the party was generally confined to lectures, picnics and socials. We held three public meetings during this period, a Trotsky memorial Meeting, with Max Shachtman speaking, which was very successful, a meeting on prices, with Ernest Erber, which was fair, and a meeting on hunger in Europe with James M, Fenwick, which was poor. In addition we held two successful picnics, an excellent house social, and a housewarming - all of which proved good sources of income for the branch. We have planned a forum series for the winter.

Branch Perspectives

Branch perspectives for the first part of the ensuing year will be evaluated shortly and a program of action drawn up. There is no need to go into details here on what can be contemplated; concrete measures flow from the situation as previously outlined. Suffice it to say that conscious recruiting must be the point of departure, to which all other activity must be logically subordinated.

JAMES M. FENWICK

November 22, 1946

REPORT ON EDUCATION

(National Committee Meeting November 1946)

I. Policy and Perspectives

The policy and perspectives for educational work were adopted by the PC in July on the basis of a statement drawn up by the Educational Director to concretize the ideas presented in the report on Education to the Convention and approved by it. The main points of this statement were:

a. "...the purpose of the department is to advance the education of the party membership and close contacts in the program of the party and in the general theories of Marxism as accepted and interpreted by the positions of the party." This point was emphasized to off-set the notion that the Educational Department was to stimulate discussion and study rather than make its function party-directed education.

b. The main objective in the coming period was to contribute to the education of the advanced comrades as part of the party's line of developing a cadre.

c. Secondary in importance to the above was elementary education for the integration of industrial workers recruited to the party.

d. The main media for effecting the educational work should be the published material of the Department rather than efforts to intervene directly in planning the educational programs of the branches from the center.

II. Party Education in the Period Since the Convention

Both the quantity and quality of educational activity in the period since the convention has been greater than perhaps in any similar period in the history of the Workers Party. This is attested to by the branch reports issued to this plenum through the organization department. This covers branch educationals, public propaganda meetings, study classes and the sale of literature for study purposes.

The Education Department is responsible for this improvement only in small measure. The general upswing in educational activity reflects the improved situation within the party as a whole. The specific factors which have contributed most to it are as follows: (1) the improved state of the branches as a result of direction from the center and full time organizers in the field, (2) the strengthening of the political core in almost every branch as a result of the return of our veterans, (3) the 8-page Labor Action, (4) the improved contents of The New International (5) regular appearance of the Party Bulletin, the Party Builder and the Weekly Letter, (6) the greater leisure available to the members as a result of a return to the 40 hour week (7) the absence of extensive external campaigns of action in this period and (8) the stimulus provided by the pre-convention discussion.

III. Functioning of the Educational Department

The Department is under the jurisdiction of an Educational Committee, consisting of the National Director and Comrades Judd and Forest, established by the PC in July. Unfortunately the Committee had only one of its planned monthly meetings, toward the end of July. The Director's vacation and national tour took him out of the center for the months of August and September. The month of October was occupied in large measure in organizing and establishing the office in its new location and in catching up with behind-schedule work resulting from the two months absence from the center. As a result, the excellent and ambitious plans worked out by the July meeting of the Educational Committee have only partially been realized.

The post of Educational Director can easily be a full-time job if the plans for work in this field were to be fully realized. As it is, the Educational Director divides his time between educational work, The New International, the youth organization and the general political assignments for writing and speaking related to membership on the Political Committee. Much of what has been achieved has been possible only because of the assistance of Comrade Eleanor Mason in almost full time work as department secretary and technical assistant on the NI.

The far greater efficiency afforded by the new offices of the Party, the more systematic functioning of the NI Editorial Board and the clearing up of a backlog of work will now make possible greater attention to the Educational Department and more regular functioning of the Committee than has been possible in the past.

IV. Education and Program of Action

The July meeting of the Educational Committee considered the tasks assigned it in the Party's Program of Action. Of these the first and most important task was to assist in the integration of new members. The Committee approved the proposal for a "New Members Kit" of educational materials contained in the Program of Action. The NC members are, by now, acquainted with the Kit and its purpose. In addition to a selection of elementary study materials for the new members, it contains a letter of welcome from the Educational Department. Names of new members are turned over to the Department by the Director of Organization and the Kit is mailed to the branch.

The Kit however, cannot do the job of integrating the new member by itself, as was already pointed out in the Program of Action. It can only facilitate this job. The real work must be done by the Branch leadership. The Educational Director has a special role in this. Either he personally, or such experienced comrade he designates, must "attach" himself, so to speak, to the new member and continually attend to his further education until the member reaches the level where the normal educational routine of the branch suffices to carry him along. This is above all necessary in the case of industrial workers who are not normally in the habit of reading extensively and, usually, lack the time and relaxation necessary for self-study. This phase of educational integration, as well as the entire educational and training process necessary to constantly de-

velop the Party cadres, is one of the problems for the Educational Department in the coming period.

V. Material Issued Since the Convention

The Educational Department has issued the following material since the Convention:

	Pages	Price	Issued
Outline on the Transitional Program	15	10¢	June
ABC of Marxism by Hal Draper *	45	40¢	July
Problems of Party Education	21	Free	July
Study Outline for "Capital" Vol. I-F. Forest	54	50¢	Nov.

VI. Material in Preparation

Class Nature of the Russian State (Erber)
 Role of the Trade Unions (Second Ed. revised)
 Reading Guide on Historical Materialism (With annotations)
 Outline History of the CIO (Johnson)
 Class Outline of "Plenty for All"

(All above projects are either in finished manuscript form or have been partially written.)

VII. The National Training School

The PC adopted detailed plans for a National Training School in July. Copies of these plans were forwarded to the NC members at the time and they are familiar with what is projected. The approximate date set for the school is in the late Spring of 1947. This project now requires serious attention from the point of view of the details of organization; finances, selection of students, location, advance publication of study materials, etc. The Educational Department will submit proposals on these matters to the PC by the first of next year.

VIII. Research Department

The space available in the new offices now permit the organization of a functioning research department. The office occupied by the Educational Department and The New International will be arranged with library table and proper cabinets for the organization of research materials. Plans for the organization of this work, personnel, etc. have already been drawn up. Further progress awaits the physical preparations of the office itself.

Ernest Erber
 Natl. Educational Dir.

* Technical work was done by the Los Angeles Branch.