

Organizational Problems

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CHAPTER FIVE—Continued Shop Activities by Street Nuclei.

While street nuclei cannot concentrate their work within one shop, it is nevertheless of great importance that the ability of the individual members to carry on shop propaganda and shop activities in their place of work be fully utilized. It is important that they be given all possible training and that reports of shop conditions and shop activities be made and discussed in the street nuclei.

Where several members work together in one shop, too few to form a shop unit, they should if at all possible belong to the same street nucleus, keep in close touch with one another, and the street nucleus as a whole becomes responsible for further developing and organizing the activities with a view to building a shop unit in their place of work.

In addition, street nuclei should give all necessary assistance to shop nuclei in or nearest to their territory both financially as well as by way of distribution of literature and shop bulletins at factory gates and organization of street and factory meetings.

CHAPTER VI.

Work in Mass Organizations.

This field offers our Party some of its greatest opportunities to establish contact with working masses. The main object is to bring these masses into motion against their class enemies, to consolidate the influence gained by the Party and give it organized expression. By pursuing the correct policies and tactics the Party can gain the deciding influence of these movements. The method of work of necessity takes different forms within the different mass organizations. As an example we enumerate the following:

1. Permanent mass organizations, such as trade unions, labor parties and workers' fraternal organizations.
2. Mass organizations which have been created for specific permanent objects, such as International Labor Defense and the International Workers' Aid.
3. Temporary united-front organizations set up around single issues, such as strike relief, protection of foreign-born, anti-injunction, defense of certain workers' cases, tenants' leagues, etc.

Our trade union work is by far the most important of these various categories here mentioned since that is the basis for success in practically all other activities. The trade unions are elementary class organizations of the workers and the tasks of the Communist Party within them have been formulated by Comrade Lenin as follows:—"The engine is the Party, its cogs grip the cogs of the trade union wheel and bring them into motion. The trade unions in turn set into motion the greater masses."

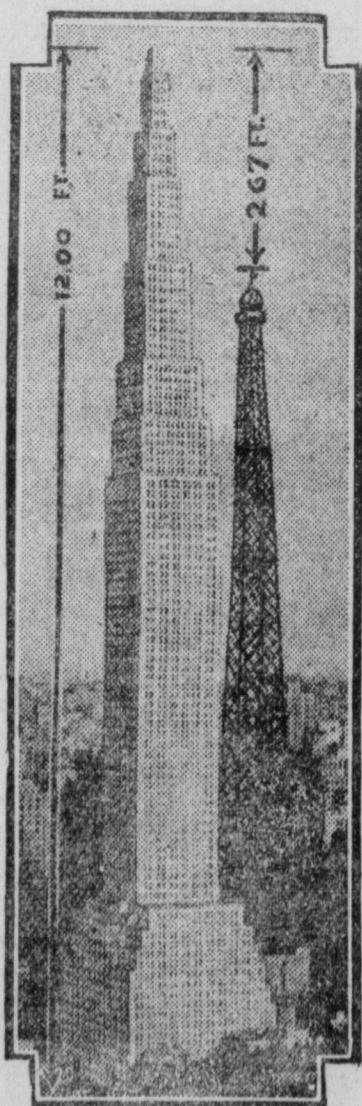
The instrument through which the Party works within the trade unions is the trade union fraction. The limited influence of our Party upon the trade unions in general makes one of our main problems, that of establishing much broader contacts on the basis of the issues prevailing. In each instance the issues are determined by the conditions of the industry and the degree of develop-

ment of the unions. The immediate task of the fraction is to build the left wing (whether it be the T. U. E. L. or have another name.) But the fractions must also build a broader movement of the opposition elements around the issues made concrete, bringing it constantly closer toward complete support of the left wing. The fraction then becomes the instrument with which to direct these movements in the struggle for the needs of the unions.

It is not our purpose here to deal with trade union tactics. However, the following few points should be mentioned. The issues naturally vary according to the degree of development of the unions and their positions within a given industry. The methods also vary on the same basis. As an illustration we select three industries, coal mining, the steel industry and the building industry.

(To be continued)

To Pierce Sky



Plans for the proposed 110-story Larkin Tower, on West Forty-Second Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, New York City, have been approved by the city's building department. Cost is estimated at \$25,000,000 and completion is anticipated before the end of 1928. Plans call for it to rise 1,200 feet above street level, 267 feet higher than the Eiffel Tower, Paris. Drawing of it is pictured here in comparison with the Eiffel Tower, Paris.