

Organizational Problems

By ARNE SWABECK.

CHAPTER VI—(Continued).

While the trade union fractions should meet regularly as often as conditions necessitate, their executive committees must function regularly. It must be borne in mind that fractions are very distinct from the basic Party units, the nuclei. The latter being the political units, take up all questions of general and specific activities and decide on policies and measures to be taken. The fraction works in direct contact with and under the direction of the Party trade union committees. It has no disciplinary powers, but it is to carry out the policies laid down by the proper Party units. It discusses the needs of the union, makes recommendations and carries out policies as decided by the proper committee.

In industries where workers who are employed in the same place also belong to the same local unions it has at times been difficult for the comrades to make the proper distinction between the trade union fractions and the nuclei. This is particularly true of the mining territory where the shop nuclei and the fraction may have identically the same membership. In that field it is of importance to remember that the fractions concern themselves only with the work within the union. Otherwise our nuclei, the political units, will be completely reduced to mere trade union fractions.

At the present time the major task of our fractions is naturally to establish the widest possible contact for the development of the left wing movement. While the fractions must always function as firmly disciplined bodies, the question of definite Communist influence upon the movement is determined by its growth or to put it more concretely, the importance of the function of the Party trade union fractions increase as the movement grows.

Trade Union Fraction Opportunities.

The tempo and the method employed in the activities of our trade union fractions naturally must correspond to the conditions of the unions at the given time. The issues must always be formulated so as to have the broadest possible character. During intense struggles of the unions the tempo increases and the method must always proceed from the basis of throwing the largest possible number of members into the struggle, of unifying them for the struggle and of establishing the influences of the policies worked out by the Party. Our fractions first decide on the definite measures in accordance with the general policy and strives to put them across.

The opportunities of our fractions particularly utilized are generally the following: during strikes, during the working out of new agreements, at trade union conventions and elections. At such times the fractions put forward their program corresponding with the needs of the situation. Elections must never be conducted merely as a hunt for office by our members, but primarily for the revolutionizing of the union membership and the development of a left wing movement. They offer splendid possibilities to put forward policies and tactics which will be for the benefit of the unions and have the object of gaining influence for the Party. It, however, goes without saying that to effectively fight for its program, the left wing can better crystalize its following around definite candidates whom it strives to elect.

Other Forms of Mass Organization

The mass organizations formerly mentioned, created for permanent specific objects or for temporary objects around the single issues should particularly be utilized as bridges to the masses. Our main object is to unite the workers for the struggle, and to be successful it is necessary to develop the Party influence to insure the correct policies. While this is so, the specific conditions prevailing determines whether the Party, in all local applications of united front tactics, appears in its own name, or thru Party delegates from affiliated organizations.

In setting up temporary united-front organizations, the form is flexible. While the general policies are worked out by the C. E. C. there may be variations as conditions may dictate in the different localities. The movement itself is the decisive thing and while the object is to win the masses, relations with leaders is often necessary in the local application as well as nationally as a bridge to the masses who follow them. It is important that such temporary organizations have a bona fide basis, with affiliations of bona fide organizations.

Establishment of mechanical power will not benefit us or the movement itself, but we must take the initiative in the work, become efficient and thru that method influence the movement and give it leadership. To do mass work successfully requires mass workers, that is comrades who understand how to fraternize with the workers. Our action in these organizations become concentrated thru the fractions and the same rule prevails for fractions in such organizations as for Party fractions in trade unions. Their function must be made as regular.