

Organizational Problems

By ARNE SWABECK.

CHAPTER VII

Members of a Communist Party should be equipped for leadership in the class struggle. They must not only understand its theoretical basis, but also possess the necessary knowledge of practical application of party policies and tactics. Our regular party training should, therefore, embrace the largest possible numbers and particularly be taken up in the nuclei so that education becomes available for all members.

Self-education can be practiced effectively in the nuclei. Shop talks at regular intervals by comrades selected for the purpose would be a good beginning. Such shop talks should be approximately 15 or 20 minutes and take up events in the shop in question, the conditions of the workers there, the methods of propaganda and activities pursued by our comrades. These talks could also be made on the experience of comrades thru their activities in trade unions or other working class organizations; the position of the organization in question, its struggles, and the methods and tactics of the left wing. Talks on activities in election campaigns, the reactions of workers and their organizations to our candidates or labor candidates. Illustrations of the general method and technique of election campaigns would not only prove highly instructive, but generally aid in throwing our party units much more into parliamentary election activities. Discussion on such talks should, of course, be conducted mainly with a view to further elaborate on the subject, to bring out any weak points in our methods and tactics and to get our members more interested and more active and more fit for party work.

A further effective method of self-education by the nuclei is collective reading from books on Marxism and Leninism. While every member should himself read the specific chapter assigned before the meeting, one member should be selected to lead the discussion and every one be urged to participate. Discussions on general political events, based on the party press, or on important party statements, setting forth its policy on a certain event or situation, should be conducted in the same manner. To make party training real, it is of the greatest necessity that any systematic educational activities be linked as closely as possible with the everyday work of the members.

Party literature should, of course, always be at hand and books or pamphlets containing educational material or lessons of certain events should be read by all members in addition to their regular large scale distribution of party propaganda literature.

Wherever possible, the organization of non-party study groups is, of course, very desirable and in general either of the methods outlined before can be applied. Moreover, our comrades should definitely strive towards establishing contact with sympathetic workers in their shops or organizations to which they belong and endeavor to draw them into such groups not only for the purpose of study, but for general support of party activities. Naturally discussing with such

workers the events during the last strike of a union or of a shop, the issues in the last elections or similar subjects based on the party press and party statements in regard to them will bring such workers closer to the party and help clarify their understanding.

In cities where possible, it is taken for granted that party schools will be established giving the various grades of classes, the more elementary and the more advanced. It is, however, important that such schools not be merely isolated educational activities, but become an integral part of our general party training so that from the courses conducted in the nuclei, the members, preferably on a selected basis, pass on to bigger tasks, to the training in the party school. This should not mean that there be any limitations upon the school. The more comrades who can go thru an intensive training, the better. Nor should there be any limitations of party membership, but non-party workers should be particularly welcomed. In certain cases, non-party instructors may also help to broaden the scope of the school.

An elementary educational course conducted in the party units has already proven of great value. It can be organized in every city. The broad outline of the course, commensurate with the needs of elementary education for a Communist Party membership, should be worked out by the Agitprop Committee and the best fitted comrades selected, to first receive a short course of training in the subject themselves and then make the round of the nuclei. There the lessons should be conducted serially on the basis of the class method.

The most effective method, however, is not a mere course of lectures, but rather a series of questions, well prepared by the comrades functioning as teachers, and following the outline of the course. These questions should be addressed to the nuclei members for them to answer with a final summary by the teacher.

PHILADELPHIA, June 22. — A "Hands Off China" protest meeting will be held tomorrow night by the West Philadelphia Workers' Club at the Progressive Library, 4035 Girard Ave.

P. T. Lau will discuss the present situation in China, and the policies of the Kuomintang. Questions and discussion will follow the meeting.

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driven them from the pages of the capitalist press? Even Lindbergh had his day and our murderers and rapists are having a chance to break into the news again. Those things are important and it is not our purpose to deprive the christian inhabitants of this christian nation of their mental fodder. But the Soviet Union covers one sixth of the earth's surface and a few dozen revolts in the Workers Republic should be deserving of consideration. Is it possible that the capitalist papers were not telling us the truth?