



Organizational Problems

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CHAPTER VIII.

Duties of Leading Committees.

While contact with the working masses is a prerequisite for leadership by the Communist Party itself, the same holds true, and perhaps more so, within the Party. The leading committees must therefore establish the closest possible contact with the lower units. The function of local executive committees consist of more than merely to run entertainments now and then or to arrange meetings. Practical experiences have shown, with sufficient clarity, that unless such committees actually guide the local units in application of Party policies, in directing local campaigns and local activities, the Party as a whole will not function properly.

It is therefore imperative that these executive committees thoroughly systematize their own work and co-ordinate the activities of the lower units within their territory. Mere sporadic work will not do but the persistent hammering away together with our members always being in the front ranks of the class struggle will help to establish Party leadership in the working class movement. To properly systematize its work, these committees should first of all be departmentalized.

A local executive, section or sub-section executive committee should in all cases have the following departments:

- Organization Department.
- Trade Union Department.
- Agit-Prop Department.

The function of the Organization Department should not merely be the technical transfer of comrades from one nucleus to another. It should rather be one of constant building of the lower units thru organizational measures. This department should watch the organizational function of the lower units and their executive

committees. Where they are found weak and not well functioning, they should be strengthened by assigning comrades with initiative.

This department should take care that all non-active Party members are being constantly visited and all efforts used to draw them into activities. It should outline the methods for constant efforts to gain new members, see that sympathetic elements are drawn closer, given Party material and they be asked to become members. The Organization Department should also assign the territory of the various units for literature distribution and for general canvassing as well as union meetings and shops for literature sales, etc.

Direction of Trade Union Work.

The Trade Union Department will have many important functions. The majority of our members do not as yet belong to the trade unions. Many of them are eligible now, others can become eligible. In some cases union membership may involve taking the initiative to form new unions. The first and foremost duty of this department therefore becomes the one of assisting our members to join the unions. It must gather all the necessary information, show our comrades how to go about the joining and get them interested by showing the great possibilities for work in this field. In certain cases, it may even have to help provide the necessary money for initiation fees.

This department should check up on attendance and activities of our members in the unions, in the Party fractions, and in the left wing groups. It should be responsible that such organizations, fraction and left wing groups are established and that they actually function. The Trade Union Department should direct the application of the Party policies in the various unions, help to formulate the practical slogans and give concrete expression to the issues of the day. Thru such correct formulation it should help find the ways and means for the correct approach to the broadest possible masses of the union membership in general and the progressive and live trade union elements in particular.

This should not be mis-interpreted to mean that the Trade Union Department for instance of a section or sub-section committee would have full jurisdiction with one local union in their particular territory which may be only one small part of the union of the trade as a whole in the city. Naturally the City Committee will direct the policies on a city-wide scale.

Agit-Prop Work.

The Agit-Prop Department of the leading committees should take full charge of directing the training courses carried on in the lower units and thru the Party schools. It should take full charge of the propaganda and agitation part of our Party campaigns in its local application, arrange meetings, furnish the proper material for the Party press and circularize the necessary Party literature.

The Agit-Prop Department should assist and supervise the issuance of shop bulletins in shops within their territory. It should guide the editorial policy of these bulletins so that Party policies become concretely and practically expressed in the columns, in a language appropriate to the masses and based on the problems in the shops. The Agit-Prop Department should also take care that worker correspondents are on the job, both Party members and, wherever possible, non-Party members.

It should, of course, be understood that none of these departments mentioned formulate their own policies or their own tactics in directing Party work. The leading executive committee will do that and assign the particular part to each department to work out in detail and carry out. The number of members composing the various departments, of course, depends on the size of the committee. However, in each case the organizational secretary should be the head of the organization department, the industrial organizer the head of the union department, and the agit-prop director the head of the agit-prop department.

(To Be Continued).