

Preparations for the Fifth Congress of the R. I. L. U.

This is the third installment of an article by the Negro Organizer of the Trade Union Unity League, in which an analysis is made of the methods of electing delegates to the Fifth Congress of the R.I. L.U.

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(Continued)

It has already been pointed out how the struggles in the South have opened up a great virgin field for recruiting broad sections of the American working class for struggle. At the same time it is evident on every hand that the economic crisis is bringing still greater masses of Negro workers into the stream of revolutionary struggle. The movement of Negro workers into the Trade Union Unity League, both North and South, is not a mere sporadic movement and confined to a few, but is involving solid and substantial numbers of Negro workers.

It is on the basis of penetrating these great masses of workers—the great majority of the American workers—that the plans and the preparations of the T. U. U. L. for the election of delegates to the Fifth Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions have been made.

In the first place, the plans for the nomination of the 30 delegates, including at least eight Negroes, who are to go from America to the Fifth Congress, were made by instructing every National Industrial Union, National Industrial League, T. U. U. L. district organizations and T. U. U. L. groups to carry on the widest possible campaign throughout all of their organizations down through to the smallest unit. This was the first thing. But this campaign was not to be mechanical in its approach to the nomination of delegates, but was to be conducted on the basis of popularizing not only the Fifth Congress itself, but the important questions that are to be taken up at the Fifth Congress. This campaign was not only to be conducted among the organized workers in the T. U. U. L. organizations, but was to bring in the unorganized workers as well. This has been the preliminary stage for the development of the campaign for the Fifth Congress of the R. I. L. U. That is has been to an extent successful is beginning to show from the number of reports and results from nominations that are beginning to come in.

While it is true that insufficient preparations have been made through the official organ of the

T. U. U. L. and other papers and that some of us have become skeptical about the results that we would gain in the popularizing campaign, and while it is true that the greatest efforts have not been put forward by all of the T. U. U. L. affiliated organizations to conduct a wide campaign, still it can be said in comparison to past periods for the election of delegates and the popularization of the R. I. L. U. that great steps forward have been made.

Revolutionary competition has been the basis for stimulating enthusiasm in the nomination of delegates, competition between National Unions, between National Industrial Leagues, between T. U. U. L. district groups and between the smaller units within these groups—shop committees, local unions, T. U. U. L. groups in A. F. of L. unions, etc., have been the basis for conducting campaigns to popularize the R. I. L. U., to increase membership in the T. U. U. L., to secure subscriptions for Labor Unity, to bring in greater numbers of Negro workers and a number of other points.

Int'l Revolutionary Competition.

International revolutionary competition has also been a basis for stimulating enthusiasm. The agree-

ments entered into between the T. U. U. L. on the one hand and the Minority Movement of England, and the C. G. T. U. of France and the Montevideo pact for increasing activity in the colonies and amongst the Negro workers, and for greater help and assistance on the part of the T. U. U. L. to the Latin-American workers, have not only been popularized, but are being put into actual practice.

The International Department of the T. U. U. L. has organized itself concretely for putting into effect these agreements, especially as pertaining to the duties of the T. U. U. L. The International Department is publishing a special bulletin in Spanish for circularization amongst the Latin-American workers, and other special materials in Spanish. It has set up sub-committees for Chinese and Indian work, for Latin-American work, for West Indian Negro work, for Philippines work, and is rendering special assistance to these various groups of workers in the colonies of American imperialism. All of this work is being done especially in line with the preparations for the Fifth Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions.

(To Be Continued)