

On the Carrying Out of the 13th Plenum Decisions

HOW TO USE THE PARTY APPARATUS AND THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE PARTY TO BUILD THE SHOP ORGANIZATION

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In a previous article I dealt with the methods of work of our individual comrades in the building up of grievance committees. In this article I will deal with the mobilization and the utilization of the Party apparatus and the main political campaigns of the Party for building grievance committees, and the entrenching of our Party and the revolutionary unions in the big factories.

The Work of the District and Section Committees

To carry out these main tasks calls not only for an improvement in the work of individual comrades working in the shops, but a fundamental change in the methods of work of our District and Section Committees. The work of every department of the District Committee must be directed toward rooting our organizations in the shops.

For the Org Department this means first the efficient carrying through of the Party registration, in order to establish the disposition of our forces available for this work. Second it calls for a thorough survey of the big shops in the district in the concentration industries. Through this survey we must establish where the opportunities for the development of struggle are best and where in consequence our best forces must be placed. Third the org department must carry through our fractions an investigation in the mass organizations under revolutionary leadership to establish in what shops we have sympathizers working and how such sympathizers can be used to build shop organization.

Fourth, the Org. Department must work out the proper methods for concentration on the factories selected. Our past experience shows the futility of expecting real results through the formal assignment of a street unit to concentrate on a factory. We must quit this formal approach to the question of concentration and work out concrete plans in each case. These plans should include: (a) The assignment of a responsible committee composed of the best fitted comrades in the street unit for the task of building up a grievance committee in the shop selected. We must be able to hold definite comrades responsible for this work and not the unit as a whole. (b) There must be placed in the hands of this committee all available information about the factory; the names and addresses of members of mass organizations, readers of the Party press, etc., working in the factory. (c) Where we have one or more comrades actually working in the factory we must assure the closest cooperation in the work between the committee from the street unit and the comrade in the shop itself. To this end we should hold weekly conferences between the comrade or comrades in the shop and the committee working from the outside. The Org. Department of the District and Section must give real attention to such conferences and see that they are productive of results.

(d) The Org. Department, through our fractions in the unemployed committees, must see that shock troops of the unemployed are set up for concentration on specific factories. Such troops must of course include non-Party workers. They should be unemployed workers who formerly worked in the industry we are concentrating on, and as far as possible unemployed who actually worked in the specific factory and have connections there. The work of the unemployed shock troops (selling press and literature at shop gates, holding shop gate meetings, visiting connections, etc.) must be coordinated with the work of any comrades who may be in the factory, and with the work of the comrades

The Building of the Communist Party and the Ripening of the Prerequisites for a Revolutionary Crisis

The developing revolutionary upsurge, simultaneously with the unsuccessful attempts of the bourgeoisie to solve the fundamental contradictions of the imperialist world (particularly in the world) creates the conditions for the growth of the prerequisites of the revolutionary crisis in Germany and in Poland, for the further development of a revolutionary crisis in China and in India, and for the ripening of the prerequisites of a revolutionary crisis in other capitalist countries in proportion as, primarily, the Communist Parties are able to mobilize and lead the mass movements against the capitalist offensive and political reaction, and to prove to the proletariat and other sections of the toiling masses, on the basis of their own experience, the necessity for a revolutionary way out of the crisis.—From the 11th Plenum Resolution of the Communist International.

from the street nucleus concentrating on the factory.

(e) Our District and Section Org. Departments must see to it that a proper division of work is carried out in the street units in order to free as far as possible the comrades working in important shops from the work of the street unit so that they may have time to carry on shop work, visit shop mates at home in the evenings, etc.

The Key Importance of Organization and Self-Criticism

"The power of the working class lies in its organization. Without organization the proletariat is like nothing. Organized it is everything. (Lenin)

"Every organization of the Party must strictly see to it that the absolutely necessary criticism of the Party defects, the analysis of the general line of the Party, the summing up of its practical experience, the verification of errors, etc., should be directed not at a discussion in the groups developing on the basis of some "platform", etc., but at a discussion by the entire Party membership." (Lenin)

Finally the District and Section Org. Departments must fundamentally change the present methods of leading the existing shop units of the Party. We should make it a rule that the usual district and section Org. letters, which are designed primarily for street units, shall not be sent to the shop units. We should make it a rule that either the section or the district must lead the shop units through sending a personal representative to the shop unit meetings or where this is impractical, sending each week an individual letter of instructions to each shop unit. Each shop unit has different problems, and particularly today when our members are not trained in this work, the closest personal leadership by the higher committees is absolutely necessary.

The Agitprop Departments must change their methods of work in the same direction. In order to train our comrades how to work the Agitprop Departments should organize at once week-end classes in the most important sections for the comrades active in shop work. These classes must be very concrete and practical. They must explain in the most simple terms just how the work is to be done.

The District Agitprop Departments must insure a constant stream of short articles to the Daily Worker on practical questions of the work, experiences, etc., written by comrades actually at the work in the shops. On the basis of these articles, special reports, etc., the C.C. Agitprop Department should issue a monthly bulletin on the order of the monthly Shop Paper Bulletin, making these experiences available to the whole Party.

The character of our agitation must be changed. We must see to it that all of our general agitation around various issues such as the war danger, Mooney campaign, elections, etc., is in all cases linked up with conditions in the shop and is written so as to appeal to shop workers. In big campaigns we should get out fewer general leaflets in the tens of thousands and get out many, many more leaflets addressed to the workers of one specific shop and tying up the general campaign with the conditions and the problems of the workers in the specific shop. Scores of such leaflets, which bear the imprint of the shop itself, should be gotten out in the course of our general campaigns. Such leaflets issued by the Party should not always be signed by the District or Section Committee. Where we have a shop unit in the shop they should be signed by the shop unit itself. Thus we will make the workers of the shop conscious of the role of the shop unit as the political leader of the workers of the factory. Wherever possible such leaflets should be written by the members of the shop unit or by individual comrades working in shops where we have as yet no unit.

The work of all other departments of the District and Section Committees, Negro Department, Women's Department, etc., must be changed in this same direction.

Use the Mass Campaigns to Build Shop Organization!

Too often our comrades complain that the Party is engaged in so many big campaigns—elections, Mooney campaign, Scottsboro, work among the unemployed, the campaign against imperialist war, etc.—that they have no time left for shop work. This indicates a completely wrong approach to the problem. Instead of acting as a brake on our shop work these mass campaigns must be a principal instrument for the penetration of the big shops. I will use a couple of examples to show how this can be done.