

The Shop Nuclei--A Need Now

By MARTIN ABERN.

Why is the Workers Party trying to reorganize itself on the basis of shop nuclei? Many reasons and correct ones have been presented before to the membership, yet there are more and weighty reasons why the Workers Party must become a political party organized at the place of work, in the shops and factories.

Shop nuclei organizations or the idea for shop nuclei did not fall from the skies. The idea and the necessity for the change in the party have arisen because of historical and practical necessity. Very briefly we can point out that previous to the world war, the socialist movement throughout the world had been gaining strength rapidly in a comparatively easy manner, thru propaganda, agitation meetings, press. Especially do we note this development in the party of social-democracy in Germany. There, more than anywhere else, social-democracy was growing stronger in the reichstag and was presumably acquiring political power thru making use of the institutions of capitalism, and there developed most strongly the revisionist theory in economy, on the state and other political matters. It became an accepted opinion with the leaders and very largely too, in the ranks of the social-democrats that socialism could be achieved thru the parliamentary or electoral machinery of capitalist "democracy." Holding this view, it is natural that the revolutionary vitality, that the struggle on other than the parliamentary field was eliminated. The theory of socialism gained easily and brought forward organizationally a vast electoral machinery of social-democracy competing supposedly, with the capitalist class.

Shop Nuclei a Historical and Practical Necessity.

Then the world war came and destroyed, in the vast millions of the masses, at least, if not in the leaders the illusion that political power could be gained by the workers thru the machinery of the capitalist parliament and institutions. In fact, a story which is now old, but which yet needs to be told many times, the socialist parties throughout the world became the third parties of capitalism. The socialist parties, instead of being parties of revolution, have become the parties of counter-revolution, last staves of the barrel of capitalism.

The Communist movement coming into being during the course of the world catastrophe and the breaking up of the Second International brought forward its own definite ideology principally and tactically. The ideas of Communists and socialists are as far apart as the poles. Briefly, the Communists have demonstrated that the primary struggle for power by the workers lies outside of parliament and congress, which can only be used as mediums for propaganda for the revolution. The real struggle lies in participation in the daily battles of the workers, strikes, etc., in the fighting to revolutionize the trade unions and to organize shop committees. Further, there is the recognition that the struggle for power finally reaches the

point of an open struggle between the workers, organized under the leadership of the Communist Party and the capitalist class.

Political Situation Demands Shop Nuclei.

We are living under greatly changed political and economic conditions in the United States too, which is now full-blown as an imperialistic nation. The world is existing in a period of shrieking militarism, battling imperialism, struggle, conquest, starvation, war and so on. Soviet Russia expected.

Socialist organizational forms, electoral machineries with their lifeless, devitalized thought and action cannot meet the needs of revolution. More virile and dynamic forms of struggle are required. Oddly enough, despite the contrasting aims of the socialist parties and the Communist parties most of the Communist and socialist parties still have the same organizational areas. In other words, an organization fitted for carrying on ordinary election campaigns, etc., and those poorly, but not fitted for swift, militant revolutionary struggle and action either in the daily struggle of the workers or for the revolutionary goal of Communism.

In America, the Workers (Communist) Party, yet retains the territorial form of organization, but has decided to begin changing (already has begun) to the shop nuclei basis. To form or organize the Workers Party on the job is to solve the organizational contradiction.

By organizing our party units in the shops, factories, mills—shop nuclei—we get permanent contact with the mass. We carry on the struggle along with them in the shops in the immediate issues, whatever they may be, and also on the larger political problems facing them. The I. W. W. once served in a way as an example of job organization for revolutionary purpose. Of course, the I. W. W. has refused to face the most important fact of all, that the struggle is a political one and the aim must be, first of all for the conquest of political power by the working class, before control of industry can be established.

Historically, therefore, our present organization is antiquated, a relic of social-democracy and must pass into the limbo of the dead. We are meet-militantly, our political problems. But we must create and build our organizational forms so that they will corre-

spond to the political necessity of the situation in this period, and that demands that the political, the organization unit, of our party must be in the shops.

Experience, everywhere that the shop nuclei have come into being, proves the soundness of the shop nuclei form of organization.

It is not only that the Communist International has declared that we must organize a party of shop nuclei, and that is a very good reason indeed, but the important thing is that it is necessary for the very life of the Workers Party, if it is to go forward with revolutionary political activity. Even as the Comintern has solved correctly the other political, tactical and other organizational problems before the Communist Parties, the Communist International arrived at the shop nuclei form of organization thru experience and need.

The Communist International has given us the lead once again. We will do well indeed, to follow that lead and organize the Workers Party on a Bolshevik, Leninist basis. A party organized at the place of work. Forward to shop nuclei!

MUSIC - LITERATURE - DRAMA

By ALFRED V. FRANKENSTEIN

Alfred Wallenstein, first violincellist of the Chicago symphony orchestra, was soloist with it at the regular concerts of last Friday and Saturday, at Orchestra Hall. Wallenstein eclipsed all his previous performances. There was an unusually enthusiastic response, and the soloist well deserved it. He played the Schumann concerto and the variations on a rococo theme by Chaykovski. The first of these is undoubtedly interesting to the 'cellist in the privacy of his studio as he works out its intricacies, but on the concert platform and from the point of view of the listener it is not very intriguing. There are some good bits in the second movement, but the rest is technical hot air.

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Mr. Stock opened the program with the symphony of Ernest Chausson. Chausson was a pupil of Cesar Franck and his symphony is much like Franck's, which means that it is melody full of pathos and suffering that touches one to the depths. It is a pity this man could not have lived and his genius ripen. But a recalcitrant bicycle and a stone wall decided differently, and all we have is a few poignant and moving compositions to remember him by.

Richard Strauss' rondo "Till Eulenspiegel" and a festival march written by Alexander Glazunoff for the Chicago world's fair of 1893 rounded out the program. This march is practically unknown, and it is a surprising fine bit of music, considering that it is based on an American tune and was written by a man who has never

come to America. It does sound a little bit American. Glazunoff's theme is derived from the tune "John Brown's Body," and the unaltered tune is also used. Which sets one to thinking. "John Brown's Body" is as near to an American folk song as any. There are a lot more like it, such as "Frankie and Johnnie," "Blow the Man Down," the cowboy songs collected by George Lomax, and all the rest of the songs that Carl Sandburg and his guitar sing before literary societies.

If Alexander Glazunoff, living in Leningrad, can write a march on an American folk song, why not some activity on our part to use what folk music we have.

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