

The Workers' Struggle Calls You, Comrades!

THE capitalist class of the United States is beginning to feel the upsurge of working class revolt against the continuance of the present system of exploitation and oppression. The first intimations that its power is threatened have aroused it to action and it is striking out, blindly, brutally, to defend its position of privilege, its profits and its industry.

This is the meaning of the attacks, raids and arrests for deportation and imprisonment which marked the celebration of the Second Anniversary of the Soviet Republic and which still continue. Fear has at last come into the minds of the rulers of society, fear that they may no longer be able to ride in easy luxury on the backs of the workers who toil and struggle and suffer under their oppression. So they are striking out ruthlessly. They hope to intimidate the workers. They hope by brutally attacking those who attend meetings, through arrests and deportations, to hold back the rising tide of working class revolt.

The attacks of the past few weeks have been particularly leveled at the Communist Party. Scores of Communist Party meeting places were raided. Large numbers of the party members were arrested. Various legal functionaries have declared the party an "illegal" organization—as if anything that seriously threatens the capitalist class is not always "illegal"!

This is a tribute to our organization. It indicates that even this early in the history of our party the capitalist class senses the fact that this is the enemy which threatens. It is added proof that our principles and program are those which will bring victory to the working class.

Although our organization is less than three months old and the work of fully mobilizing its strength is not yet over, it has not gone down under this attack. Everywhere the comrades have rallied to their organization, determined to continue the struggle at whatever cost. Not only have we not been beaten by the ruthless campaign against us, but the membership is showing by its actions that its answer is greater effort and sacrifice in the work of propaganda and organization to build a powerful Communist Party.

The Central Executive Committee of the party gave careful consideration to the existing situation at its recent meeting. The recommendations to the membership which follow are the result of its deliberation, its efforts to contribute to the successful building of the party under the new conditions which face the organization.

Strengthen the Organization

The first task before us is to so strengthen our organization that it will be able to function in spite of all the repressive measures that may be used against us. We will maintain our position in the open and carry on our work where all may see as long as that is possible. We will not give up our open work. We will not give up our principle. We will not give up our class. We will not give up our organization. We will not give up our fight. We will not give up the fight; there is no power which the ruling class possesses that can permanently suppress our movement; we will merely adopt new methods of organization and propaganda which will place our organization beyond the reach of the ruling

Proclamation to the Party Membership by the Central Executive Committee.

class and its instruments of oppression. The plan of work approved by the Central Executive Committee can be adapted to both the conditions of open propaganda and the reverse, if that becomes necessary. It has already been successfully used in those places where the action of the ruling class has made it necessary. The details will be placed before every branch within the next few weeks.

The period of adjustment to new conditions will be a difficult one. It will be hard at once to adapt ourselves to the situation we face. In order that we may master our new problems as quickly as possible, we ask every party member that he co-operate to the fullest extent with the party officials and take up the task allotted to him in that earnest and serious spirit that will bring success.

Communist Party Shop Branches

The shops are the centres of activity of the Communist Party. The workers in the shops are most easily reached with our message and convinced of the soundness of our principles. Our program of action has its basis in the shops. It is there that we can lay the foundation upon which we can erect the structure of a powerful organization.

The workers in the shops come together daily. They are in constant contact and communication with each other. It is in the shops, therefore, that they can be most easily bound together for united action.

The shops do not only unite the workers physically, but it is there that their interests are one and there they will most readily act together.

The party program is definite in the statement that the great industrial struggles are the most important factors in the party campaigns. The party has also declared its purpose to propagandize for the establishment of the One Big Union in industry. To carry on this work it must be deeply rooted in the shops. It must have the means for continuous and aggressive propaganda there.

Because of these considerations the Central Executive Committee urges immediate action by all party units to establish Communist Party Shop Branches. The present members of the party branches should become the nucleus for the organization of shop branches. The place of employment of each member should be ascertained. Where several members are employed in the same shop they should be constituted a committee to build up a Shop Branch. If sufficient members are employed in one place they should immediately constitute themselves a Shop Branch.

The advantage of Shop Branches is readily apparent. The members of such branches are in daily contact with each other. They can discuss the problems of organization, pay dues, raise funds, make plans for agitation work and register their decisions on party problems without exposing themselves to any danger. The Shop Branch is proof against the ruling class measures of suppression.

Each Shop Branch should be a centre of agitation. Leaflets dealing with the struggle of the workers, which are being issued by the National Organization, should be

distributed regularly. Books and pamphlets and the party papers and magazines should be sold. The work of the Shop Branch is to carry on a campaign of agitation to acquaint the other workers in the shops with the fundamental Communist principles and for the organization of the industrial union, and to furnish the leadership in the time of action.

The work of creating Shop Branches is fundamental. We must take action at once to bring these organizations into existence.

Leaflet Distribution.

Events are developing quickly in the present world of capitalism. New crises appear with startling rapidity. The Steel Strike, the Miners Strike with its coercion by the Government, followed each other in quick succession. Another crisis in the threatened strike of the Railroad Workers is looming.

Each of these situations presents the opportunity for Communist agitation. It is precisely in these situations that the party must intervene. It must be in a position to present the Communist interpretation of events to the workers throughout the country on a few days notice.

To accomplish this the party administration has issued a series of leaflets. While these were successfully distributed, the old method of sending out circulars asking for orders and then printing and shipping the leaflets makes the party action drag. It causes delay and the crisis may pass before our message is in the hands of the workers.

The Central Executive Committee considers the distribution of leaflets the most effective form of agitation. It urges that those branches which thus far have not participated in this work immediately organize themselves for this form of propaganda. Our present organization is capable of distributing several million copies of each leaflet issued when properly organized for this work. We must mobilize our full power of action in this respect.

To avoid the delay and the drag on our action which results from the old method the Central Executive Committee urges that each party branch place a standing order for the quantity of leaflets it can distribute, just as orders are placed for bundles of papers and other periodicals. This plan will enable the National Organization to print the number of leaflets of each issue which the whole organization can handle and to ship them out as soon as they are ready, thus avoiding the delay which militates against the effectiveness of our propaganda. Leaflets will be issued at intervals of about two weeks.

The leaflets issued thus far speak for themselves. They are evidence that the party administration can be depended upon to furnish leaflets that meet the test of principle, simplicity of language, and yet are militant calls to action.

Blanks for standing orders for leaflets have been furnished by mail. Make this question a standing order of business at your next meeting and help to mobilize our entire organization strength for this work of propaganda.

The Party Growth

The party progress during the two months that the National Organization has been in existence has been indeed gratifying. The membership figures of approximately 50,000 shown by the convention credentials are being realized in dues payments. In addition

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