

thought Thomas Uribe was a tin Jesus. Before that we had expelled Castrillon. We gave him every chance to work. We gave him charge of very important trade union work which we did not do--never attended to it. The only thing he would do was to go to some meetings of the unemployed and speak, but he would never carry out the line in his speeches. Most of the time he would never come. Finally this fellow went into partnership with one of the gambling houses under the condition that he will not participate in any form or fashion in the working class movement. When we got wise to that we explained it to the members and we expelled the son of a bitch, although his probationary period was not over. The CI demanded his expulsion, but while I was in Moscow I saw some letters of Castrillon which showed sincerity and I knew they were quite weak on working class type of leaders, etc. I thought that maybe this guy could be won over. We received a cablegram, to change expulsion to probation. We did that. As I said, he is thoroughly corrupt. Down there, to say I admit mistakes did not mean anything, with these old types of SRs from the old CC of the SRP there really remained two comrades--one is an American and the other is Vaquero. He is a very good comrade.

Well, so in this way in ten months we had expelled all of the principal leaders of the Central Committee without disrupting the Party. On the contrary we utilized all these expulsions to make a campaign in the Party on opportunism, etc. It did not disturb our mass work at all. On the contrary, each time we expelled one of these guys we received telegrams of congratulation, etc. As the movement began to pick up, many of the old opportunists also came back. They were forming new groups in Cali. We had a fight with eight of them, whom we had to expel. We did not make too much noise about these expulsions in the provinces. So that there was no panic created about it. By the time I left there was only one place that was not cleaned up. That was Medellin. We sent in one of our best organizers. I don't know what came out of it. There we had one of our best leaders of the PSR, a very popular one. She did not accept the line of the CI really. She said she accepts it as a matter of discipline. There was activity on the question of unemployment, etc. there. The reason we had not an organizer there sooner was because the expense of travel is something awful. To travel there costs a lot of money and the Party there is altogether too poor. This gives a little illustration on the question of the fight against opportunists. Each time that we expelled a particular guy we expelled him on something concrete, for organizing factional activities against the CC, for alliance with liberals or conservatives. By the time I left we had the principal opportunists pretty well cleaned up. I did not know at the time I left whether Thomas Uribe Marques had joined the liberals or conservatives, but he was making overtures to them.

The Party then had between 1,000 and 1,200 members when I left, and the situation was such that we expected that with six months good work we could have a Party of 3,000. The danger there is in getting the Party swamped with ardentaries. We could get a tremendous number of these semi-proletarianized peasants into the Party, but I considered it a little bit dangerous, and we were always trying to balance our policy in such a fashion that we drew in a maximum number of workers, always concentrating more upon the recruiting ~~among~~ among the ~~workers~~ workers, but the peasants JUST COME IN BY THEMSELVES. When I left we had sent in some organizers in places where we had no movement, and just by little mimeographed leaflets we were getting the peasants. In some other districts, almost entirely conservative, they were coming more to us, which was a sign that we were beginning to get hold of the masses, and that there was a favorable situation for joining the movement amongst the urban proletariat with the movement among the semi-proletarian peasants. About six weeks before I left, in one of the country districts, where we had good organization, they had forbidden us manifestations. The peasants there were pretty well organized, so about 600 peasants with rifles, and their long knives which they used for cutting coffee, marched right into the center of the town and held a manifestation, and among the 30 constabulary who were guarding the manifestation we had 16 sympathizers. We even had contact with the police because they were making wage cuts.