

# OUR PROPAGANDA IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By I. AMTER.  
(Written in Jail.)

THE Party cannot yet claim that it has attained efficiency in Communist propaganda. Recently the Comintern made a survey of the agitation for March 6th carried on in the leading Communist organs and found that the Daily Worker both before and after May First did the best work of the organs of the different Parties. The Daily Worker not only had good general propaganda and agitation about the economic crisis and its devastating effects upon the American workers, but also about the crisis abroad. Not only the editorials but the worker correspondents helped to make the Daily Worker a real mobilizer.

After March 6th, the Daily Worker linked up the situation and the demonstration with preparations for May First, thus connecting up the two events and the preparations for May First integrally with the struggle against the crisis and its effects upon the workers.

After May First, but not so effectively, the Daily Worker connected up March 6th and May First with the conventions of the various revolutionary unions and with the National Unemployment Convention on July 4th. After July 4th comes the election campaign.

The agitation since May First has not been what March 6th was—but this was not the fault entirely of the Daily Worker. The worker correspondents have not been so active since May First (nor before May First as compared with March 6th). This indicates that the comrades in the districts have not been on the job.

## Language Press Falls Down.

How the language press functioned in the campaigns has not been thoroughly investigated. But we can take it for granted that, with exceptions, our language press has not been up to the mark. The old traditions of our language papers have not developed worker correspondents dealing with the vital questions of the crisis as they should. (The Liberator and the Woman Worker, although in English, are especially faulty in this respect; on the other hand, Labor Unity has tremendously improved!)

This situation must be radically improved if the entire Party press is to function as part of the election machinery. This has two sides: the editorial staff, and particularly the comrades in the districts. The corps of worker correspondents must be increased if the election campaign is to develop properly.

Each district must immediately organize its worker correspondents and develop new ones. Explain thoroughly to them the significance of the election campaign, connecting it up with the fight for unemployment insurance, strikes against wage cuts and for wage increases, for the 7-hour day, 5-day week, for equal rights for Negroes, against imperialist war preparations, for defense of the Soviet Union, and the other Party issues. If this is not done, the campaign will not be what it can be in this period—a real mobilization and organization of the workers for the struggle—an opportunity such as the Party has never had.

If this is not done, we will again find as we have found in the past, that the masses will support the Party in economic struggles and in demonstrations, but not in the parliamentary struggle.

## Leaflets Are Important.

The Party press, by far, does not exhaust our propaganda and agitation. The districts will issue leaflets. A leaflet is an important document, and just as the Comintern has pointed out that editorials must be short and popular in language, the leaflets must also follow these directions if we want them to be read and produce an effect on the workers. The districts must be aware that such words as "rationalization," "chauvinism," "opportunism," etc., are not understood by the American workers. The American working class has not had the theoretical training that, say, the German workers have had for 40 years. There is not in the United States the mass of working class literature and popular pamphlets that was issued in Germany and England. We have yet to create this literature and reach with it the masses of workers that have been permeated by the Parties of Europe. Other objective and subjective conditions make our work more difficult in this field.

Therefore, brevity and simplification must prevail in our leaflets if they are to be effective. One should not attempt to deal with everything in a leaflet. The leaflets should be so planned (and they must be planned) that one or a few important phases are emphasized in each one, even though there may also be a general leaflet.

And most of all—just as in all our work, these leaflets must be concrete. We must deal not only with conditions, national and international, but especially with conditions in the particular states and in which the campaign is being conducted.

Then come shop papers. The report of the organization department of the Party in the June Communist shows a disgraceful situation in regard to shop papers in certain districts. Some long-established shop nuclei do not issue shop papers (some refuse to do so, others see no particular conditions in their plants, etc.). The Party must insist that each and every shop nucleus establishes and regularly issues its shop paper. During the election campaign special editions should be issued.

These shop papers must not merely carry on agitation against conditions in the plant but connect them up with the general conditions. The subdivisions of articles into "economic" and "political" must end. There is a general practice throughout the districts to put the same political article into each shop paper issued in the district. The result is that the political article is almost an abstraction as far as its relation to the workers of the particular shop are concerned. Consequently the workers do not well understand their connections with national and international developments in the working class movement.

## Examples Must Be Cited.

For example, when speaking of the Soviet Union, its introduction can be effected best by comparing conditions in the particular industry of the Soviet Union and the same industry of the United States. The same thing in regard to rationalization, war, etc.

It is now time that the district sees to it that the sections supervise the issuance of all shop papers issued in the sections. The nuclei must be made responsible for collecting and writing up the material and wherever possible for publishing the papers.

The present practice of having a comrade in the district office write up the paper must cease. First of all, it deprives the nuclei of initiative and responsibility and secondly, the papers have one character—devoid of the language of the shop, etc.

Now comes the question of speakers. There is a persistent practice in requiring the district office to supply all speakers. The comrades of the district are not always available, thus limiting the number of meetings possible. Above all, the nuclei and sections must develop their own speakers. These latter speakers familiarizing themselves with conditions in the shops of the section will become leaders among the workers of the section. There is a terrible scarcity of Party speakers (as of all functionaries) and new ones must be developed. Young, live comrades, men, and especially women, must be trained generally as speakers and especially for the election campaign. This must be done without delay. Only for special meetings should the district be asked for speakers.

The speakers must learn how to Americanize their speeches, using simple language. They must understand that the workers' vocabulary is very limited and does not include Party terminology. Lenin laid stress on simplicity of language, and our Party has yet to learn the method.

Where shall our propaganda be carried on? At and in the shops first and above all. Then in unions (A. F. of L. too); fraternal organizations, etc. Street corner rallies and hall meetings must be a subordinate consideration.

Committees in charge of the work—chairmen, sellers of the Daily Worker, Labor Unity and Party literature, etc., must be on hand in time. Unemployed comrades can serve in this capacity. Altho Communists working in shops know what punctuality is, in our Party we are slovenly about starting meetings. This practice must stop if we wish to attract and hold the masses.

## Special Propaganda for Negroes.

Special propaganda must be issued for Negro, women and young workers. The Negroes are coming close to the Party. Women and young workers occupy a leading position in industry and must be drawn into the movement. This propaganda must not consist of a simple leaflet during the campaign, but a planned series of leaflets. To neglect these three categories of workers would be a serious shortcoming in our work.

What has been said of the Party applies equally, and in some respects more so, to the Young Communist League, which must play a prominent part in the campaign. Young comrades can more easily collect, write up, prepare and issue shop papers. They can more readily be trained as speakers—they are less likely to have a foreign accent. Therefore the district of the League must not only cooperate but play a leading role in the campaign.

The character of our propaganda should be so different from what it hitherto has been that the district bureaus must see to it that the District Agitprops immediately get on the job and organize it.

This election campaign must be a real Communist campaign—Communist in organization and propaganda. We must organize ourselves for the work—in a well-planned manner; we must carry on our agitation and propaganda, delegating the respective duties and responsibilities to the sections, nuclei and members, urging every member to be active in the every day tasks. We must organize the masses for the sharp struggles coming. We must get a vote according to the influence our Party has attained, influence that will grow if we reach the workers, explaining the situation and dissecting the system of exploitation that means only misery to them, explaining the situation and leading them in the struggle. Plan and organize your work! Then—forward!

## Resolution of the Unemployed Convention on the "Daily Worker"

THE unemployment convention held in Chicago, June 15, declares:

That the Daily Worker, the official organ of the Communist Party of America and the only working class daily paper in the United States, is an indispensable weapon in the class struggle. The Daily Worker has rendered to the workers in this country immeasurable service in many struggles: The Passaic Strike, Gastonia, Struggle to free Sacco and Vanzetti, the Defense of the Soviet Union, etc. In the struggle against unemployment, the Daily Worker has proven to be a real champion of the working class. In the mobilizations for March 6 and May Day demonstrations, the Daily Worker has taken a leading role. The leadership of the international proletariat, the Communist International, in analyzing the work of the leading working class newspapers all over the world, finds the Daily Worker one of the best papers for the mobilization of these demonstrations. The Daily Worker is continuing the struggle against unemployment and is the chief instrument in mobilizing the workers for the big Unemployment Convention, July 4, 5, to be held in the city of Chicago.

We declare our unreserved support to the Daily Worker. We will do everything possible to maintain and develop the Daily Worker.

1. We will join the campaign for the \$25,000 emergency fund.
  2. We will join the campaign for the 60,000 new readers.
  3. We will elect in our organizations special Daily Worker committees to popularize the Daily Worker among the members of our organizations, and get them to support, read, and subscribe for it.
  4. The establishment of a Chicago Page will help us greatly in our struggles. We pledge to send workers correspondence for this special edition and in that way bring the Daily Worker closer to the workers of our organizations, mills, and factories.
- Long live the revolutionary struggle of the working class!  
Long live the Daily Worker, the official organ of the Communist Party.

The Daily Worker is the Party's best instrument to make contacts among its masses of workers, to build a mass Communist Party.