

PARTY ORGANISER

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" More than that, after the correct political line has been given, the organisational work decides everything, including the fate of the political line itself, i.e., its success or failure."

STALIN

OCTOBER '74

**COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY
U.S.N.A.**

Comrades this issue of the Party Organiser will be very short. The article on the upcoming coalminers strike is very important and all comrades should study this very carefully. Another Party Organiser will be out very shortly.

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Comrades:

October 1974

The purpose of this letter is to review the political aspects of the Communist Labor Party's national campaign to fight for jobs and end unemployment. Only when the politics of this campaign are thoroughly understood will it be organized in the best way. Therefore we ask that every district and city committee read and discuss this letter.

First, we urge that comrades review the article on the campaign - "Fight for Jobs!" - in the People's Tribune, Vol. 1, No. 1. As this article points out, we are on the threshold of a major economic crisis in the USNA. The intensity of this crisis has just been underscored by the latest figures released by the US Department of Labor. Their most recent report states that in addition to the 6,000,000 workers already registered as unemployed, there are in the poverty areas of the USNA 22,000,000 more workers who are able and willing to work but cannot find jobs! These figures clearly show the urgency of our task.

The unemployment campaign concerns all party cadre and the workers they influence, whether employed or not. We absolutely must build organizations of the unemployed. Does this mean that our base is no longer in the factories mines and mills? Does this mean comrades should quit work in order to join the unemployment campaign? No. The party's base is in large scale industry. But from this base we must organize the rest of the class. The campaign for jobs and against unemployment is the first step in this process.

"The struggle of the working class of the USNA for its emancipation is a political struggle" (C.L.P. Program). This national campaign is part of the political struggle. Some think that the workers in the factories should just fight for higher wages, better conditions, etc. But Lenin pointed out that the economic struggle by itself is not always the best way to draw the workers into revolutionary politics. In fact, usually the political struggle is the best way. We see from this that our factory nuclei must begin agitation and propaganda in their workplaces to support the fight for jobs, the unemployment councils, and other aspects of the campaign. Unemployment councils must be built in the factories themselves. At the same time the street nuclei will play an instrumental role in organizing the unemployed. They can do this through building unemployment councils in the communities, by bringing the campaign to all sorts of mass organizations, by putting pressure on the state apparatus to implement the work program.

In this way we will work to achieve unity between the employed and the unemployed. Without this unity the campaign will fail.

We must eradicate sectarianism in this campaign. Thus it will be brought to every kind of mass organization - trade unions, PTA's, welfare groups, etc., as well as whatever organizations are set up by the party itself. However, we should concentrate our forces amongst the organizations of the unemployed, as opposed to the revisionist CPUSA which also "fights" inflation and unemployment, but from the trade unions.

The success of this campaign hinges partly on the initiative taken by each comrade and collective in the party. We are sending with this letter just one example of what we mean. Comrades should not stop with this. We should go to city council meetings, for example, and demand that the government act on a program centered around the following points:

- 1) that the work program be implemented
- 2) that the jobs provided must be productive ones, not jobs that only bolster the forces of the state apparatus - such as police, firemen, etc.

These two basic demands must be raised again and again. Further, they must be adapted - as in the Detroit petition - to the local conditions. In short, the demands must be made as concrete as possible.

We can see that in the main the national campaign for jobs and against unemployment is a legal one - that is, it is going to be fought primarily through legal mass organizations. These will be either already existing organizations or ones set up by the Party. In this way the campaign represents an important step in the combination of legal with illegal work; without this combination the party will be crushed.

In conclusion, it is the responsibility of every district and city committee to ensure that our comrades understand the political importance of this campaign. The People's Tribune has made it clear that this is not "just another issue." The objective situation dictates that we must "Undertake as massive a campaign as our resources will allow against the fascist political and economic attacks on our class. This campaign will take the form of a struggle against unemployment and a struggle for jobs."

FIGHT FOR JOBS!
END UNEMPLOYMENT!

RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned, protest the outrageous rate of inflation and high level of unemployment. We protest the increased government handouts to banks and corporations, while we are made to bear the crisis on our backs through unemployment and inflation. We protest increased "defense" spending on preparations for war while people all over the world and in this country are starving.

We will not be satisfied with a paltry 700 jobs in the Detroit area when there are 300,000 unemployed! Let it be known that we take a stand against this unemployment and inflation!

We demand:

- 1) that the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, "C.E.T.A. (Public Law 93-203) which provides federally funded jobs in areas of 6.5% unemployment or higher, be fully implemented so that every unemployed worker (both male and female) is guaranteed a decent job and a decent income!
- 2) that these Federal jobs be designed to create better housing, quality schools, and better health facilities for all workers in the Detroit area!
- 3) We demand that Mayor Young and the Detroit Common Council take immediate action to implement these demands!

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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Comrades the following is a quote from Dimitroffs speech at the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International. It is taken from the section entitled "Unity of the Working Class Against Fascism". The Education Committee felt that it was significant enough to be reprinted.

Comrades, we Communists are people of action. Ours is the problem of practical struggle against the offensive of capital, against fascism and the threat of imperialist war, the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism. It is precisely this *practical* task that obliges Communist cadres to equip themselves with *revolutionary theory*. For, as Stalin, that greatest master of revolutionary action, has taught us, theory gives those engaged in practical work the power of orientation, clarity of vision, assurance in work, belief in the triumph of our cause.

But real revolutionary theory is irreconcilably hostile to all emasculated theorizing, all barren play with abstract definitions. *Our theory is not a dogma, but a guide to action*, Lenin used to say. It is *such* a theory that our cadres need, and they need it as badly as they need their daily bread, as they need air or water.

Whoever really wishes to rid our work of deadening, cut-and-dried schemes, of pernicious scholasticism, must burn them out with a red-hot iron, both by *practical*, active struggle waged together with and at the head of the masses, and by *untiring effort* to master the mighty, fertile, all-powerful teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

In this connection I consider it particularly necessary to draw your attention to the work of our *Party schools*. It is not pedants, moralizers or adepts at quoting that our schools must train. No! It is practical front-rank fighters in the cause of the working class that must leave their walls—people who are front-rank fighters not only because of their boldness and readiness for self-sacrifice, but also because they see further than rank-and-file workers and know better than they the path that leads to the emancipation of the toilers. All sections of the Communist International must without any dilly-dallying seriously take up the question of the proper organization of Party schools, in order to turn them into *smithies* where these fighting cadres are forged.

The principal task of our Party schools, it seems to me, is to teach the Party and Young Communist League members there how to apply the Marxist-Leninist method to the concrete situation in particular countries, to definite conditions, not to the struggle against an enemy "in general" but against a particular, definite enemy. This makes necessary a study of not merely the letter of Leninism, but its living, revolutionary spirit.

COMRADE
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There are two ways of training cadres in our Party schools:

First method: teaching people abstract theory, trying to give them the greatest possible dose of dry learning, coaching them how to write theses and resolutions in literary style, and only incidentally touching upon the problems of the particular country, of the particular labor movement, its history and traditions, and the experience of the Communist Party in question. Only incidentally!

Second method: theoretical training in which mastering the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism is based on a practical study by the student of the key problems of the struggle of the proletariat in his own country. On returning to his practical work, the student will then be able to find his bearings independently, and become an independent practical organizer and leader capable of leading the masses in battle against the class enemy.

Not all graduates of our Party schools prove to be suitable. There is a great deal of phrases, abstractions, book knowledge and show of learning. But we need real, truly Bolshevik organizers and leaders of the masses. And we need them badly this very day. It does not matter if such students cannot write good theses (though we need that very much, too) but they must know how to organize and lead, undaunted by difficulties, capable of surmounting them.

Revolutionary theory is the generalized, summarized experience of the revolutionary movement. Communists must carefully utilize in their countries not only the experience of the past but also the experience of the present struggle of other detachments of the international labor movement. However, correct utilization of experience does not by any means denote *mechanical transposition* of readymade forms and methods of struggle from one set of conditions to another,

from one country to another, as so often happens in our Parties.

Bare imitation, simple copying of methods and forms of work, even of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in countries where capitalism is still supreme, may with the best of intentions result in harm rather than good, as has so often actually been the case. It is precisely from the experience of the Russian Bolsheviks that we must learn to apply effectually, to the specific conditions of life in each country, the *single international line*; in the struggle against capitalism we must learn pitilessly to cast aside, pillory and hold up to general ridicule all *phrasemongering*, use of *hackneyed formulas*, *pedantry* and *doctrinairism*.

It is necessary to learn, comrades, to learn always, at every step, in the course of the struggle, at liberty and in jail. To learn and to fight, to fight and to learn. We must be able to combine the great teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin with Stalinist firmness at work and in struggle, with Stalinist irreconcilability on matters of principle toward the class enemy and deviators from the Bolshevik line, with Stalinist fearlessness in face of difficulties, with Stalinist revolutionary realism.

regardless of practical problems which affect them, Stalinist impractical vision

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what's good for one particular incident, may not be for another.

exposure to public scorn made trite + commonplace by overuse

COMRADES

In every industry and shop the workers are facing hard times, but this is especially true in the coal fields where the miners are now preparing for the possibility of a long and hard strike. Their contract expires on Nov. 12 and United Mine workers president Arnold Miller stated three months ago that "If we don't have a contract, there won't be any coal mining." Amongst the rich country clubs and in the columns of the Wall St. Journal the bourgeoisie are increasingly calling to crush the miners efforts for a decent life. Taft-Hartly act become the class call of the bourgeoisie. If the miners strike the government can merely issue an injunction against the strike, jail the leaders order the miners back to work in the face of fines and jail and use the army to mine coal.

Coal miners face extremely hazardous and unhealthy conditions. One out of every 550 miners dies in an mining accident making it the most hazardous occupation in the country. Three quarters of the miners are infected with Black lung(a deadly lung disease from breathing coal dust). Of the 2,000 mines inspected by the government only 600 complied with the current Workmens Compensation laws.. Over 100,000 miners have died in accidents since 1900. The miners are preparing to go on strike if necessary to make the mines live up to the existing safety laws and to increase the health benefits for the injured and sick miners. While the miners dig at least 14 tons of coal each day(currently being sold for about 65\$ a ton) their daily pay is only 40 or fifty dollars.

Even though coal profits are soaring the bourgeoisie refuses even the most minimum demands of the miners. Instead the bourgeois, as they are in steel auto and every other shop and mill in the country are pushing the miners trying to bust their union and strip them of the past gains.

The Taft Hartly act was passed to cripple the working class struggles. It gives the government the right to issue injunctions against strikes, gives the courts the power to fine and jail miners. It denies the trade unions the right to contribute to political campaigns. It abolished closed shops, ^{by contract, only union members hired} prohibited mass picketing and secondary boycotts. It authorized and encouraged the passage of state right

to work laws. The bourgeoisie merely has to go into court get an injunction against the strike and the strikers are ordered back to work. The Wall St. Journal has been talking more and more about using the Taft Hartly to crush the coal strike.

Any strike which resists the Taft Hartly act will be met with the jails and the army. This presents very grave possibilities for the workers throughout the country. We have seen in recent months a frantic drive by the bourgeoisie to throw the burden of the economic crisis on the backs of the workers. This has been witnessed mainly by curtailing or denying the right to strike. First secure jobs, can't strike, then public jobs, then service jobs, the jobs fundamental to the economy and to the national trade. Various laws have been passed including a new version of the Taft Hartly which is presently in congress. The point is that the political struggle of the entire working class could easily focus on this coal strike if the miners refuse to buckle under the Taft Hartly. Every honest workers must come to the aid of the coal miners, the struggle of the coal miners, particularly against the Taft Hartly is the struggle of the entire working class.

Comrades this a Red alert; We must set up contingency plans to mobilise sympathy strikes, demonstrations, protests, forums, passing of resolutions etc. in our Trade Unions and other mass working class organisations under the key slogan "No Taft Hartley Act". Center our propaganda and agitation on the coal operators, and as the struggle develops on the government etc. We must keep a high political point of view in this matter and we must avoid sectarianism. Warn our class and the non-proletarian masses! NO TAFT HARTLEY!

LABOUR COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF SECRETARIAT!

P.S. For more information see Peoples Tribune vol 1 # 3.

Factory nuclei Class on Legal and illegal work

Reading--Points of affiliation to the Comintern (quoted in Comrade Kilpatrick's pamphlet, "On the Struggle against Revisionism."
the 12 Points of Bolshevization--J. Stalin (quoted in beginning for the Outlin for the study of Marxism-Leninism)

Dimitsoff, United Front Against Fascism, "Unity of the working class", last two sections, "a correct line is not enough" and "Cadre"

W. Liech, "We are fighting for a Soviet Germany" Report to the 13 Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Comintern, Part V. (our reprint)
Lenin, "The Illegal Party and Legal work" vol. 18 pg. 387 col. works (our reprint)

Questions for discussion:

1. How is your unit, as a part of the Party, preparing to meet the fascist offensive?
2. What is the relationship between "legal" and "illegal" work? Is Party work ever "legal"? Discuss in relations to your unit's work. How is your unit organized as a "illegal nuclei, establishing strong-points of work in a wide network of legal worker's organizations"?
3. How can comrades in a factory do effective political work without being exposed and fired? If you are not in a factory unit what role should your unit play in protecting the factory nuclei and its work in its concentration area?
4. What is the difference between the Party and the other organizations of the working class? How is this difference the key to the strength and activity of the Party even under the most difficult conditions?
5. What other organizations that influence the working class are there in your area? How do they differ from the CLP?
6. Show how the Party must advance and retreat according to the situation of the class struggle, using your unit's work as an example--.