

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 13 OF 16

FOLDER 3

PRODUCTION WORK

COMMITTEE REPORTS 1974

To: Production Work Committee
From: center
Re: Organization of Committee

Greetings!

Our task is clear: ground ourselves in the Science to ground ourselves in the class. Through the struggle to build and consolidate a multi-national, anti-revisionist, Communist Party, we carry forward the task of winning the vanguard of the working class to communism.

The immediate period is one of intense struggle to ground ourselves in the science. This has the most practical and far-reaching consequences. Through our continuing priority of the study of the whole of Marxism-Leninism we insure our all around development as cadre capable of finding our bearings in every situation. Through the study of the Party Program we prepare ourselves for struggle at the Congress and with the most advanced workers.

To this study we must add the study of the fractional method of work and the economic struggle. We must become scientists at constructing the factory apparatus which will insure the grounding of the Party in the class. We must gain an understanding of the importance as well as the limitations of the economic struggle and the relationship of Communists to this form of struggle, for as Communists we recognize three forms of class struggle: political, economic, and theoretical.

Enclosed are a number of short papers to be studied prior to the first Work Committee meeting. They include: MIDWEST REGION REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL WORK, DETROIT REGION REPORT, RELATIONSHIP OF STREET TO FACTORY ORGANIZATIONS, PROBLEMS OF WOMEN AS ORGANIZERS IN INDUSTRY, AND "GENERAL TYPE ORGANIZATION" (V. Lenin). *243 - enl*

The utmost security should be taken around these documents. Bring them with you to PWC meeting.

The agenda for the meeting will be
1. Industrial midwest and Detroit - strategic importance - AB
2. Fractional Method - BB
3. Organization of PWC - center

The agenda for the second meeting will include further study of the fractional method and the economic struggle.

It is going to be difficult to schedule a meeting everyone can attend without losing necessary sleep. I will be contacting everyone for their schedule. Please be prepared to give me a written copy of shift and days off for as far in the future as you can.

The first meeting will be 10 days - 2 weeks from today 6-25.

NO DISCUSSION OF WORK IS TO BE HAD ON THE TELEPHONE. There is not sufficient security around this. DO NOT DISCUSS SHIFT, DAYS OFF, CONDITIONS OR ANY OTHER ASPECT UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY. Contact people in person. Resist any attempts to discuss political matters on the telephone. WE MUST LEARN COMMUNIST DISCIPLINE AND RESIST OUR HISTORY OF EXPOSING CADRE AND INFORMATION.

BUILD A MULTI NATIONAL, ANTI-REVISIONIST COMMUNIST PARTY !
MAKE EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!
WIN THE VANGUARD OF THE PROLETARIATE OVER TO COMMUNISM!



- * Key:
- ① Corrects the line of party
→ Application not fitting
reality. It is left
error.
 - ② Provides Cent. Comm. to make
decisions on what work needs to
be carried out.
 - ③ Guides the party in recruitment
of part. cadre + dev. + of part. leadership.

The area

CPUSA

① High % of Neg. Nat'l Min.

L. RBW - very imp.

Never limited simply to
the ec. struggle.

Fractional method of work - embodiment
of line in org.

Applicable to all party org.

Secret internally protect cadre in same industrial
location.
Beneficial externally
→ extend itself of infinite network.
Reach every worker in given industrial
location w/in a day.

Party unit - only of party cadre - conscious
troupe rev.

Fractions - feelers of unit as a whole.

- ① Del. + distribution network - illegal
- ② Study-propaganda circles.
- ③ Locating + exposing bou. agents
- ④ T. U. fraction ("legal work")
- ⑤ Agitation + propaganda fraction.

Key test - distribution of literature +
collection of info. Takes the line
+ brings into the class. Provide the
objective basis for part. struggle w/in the
class. Stimulate discussion to get info.
from class. If the rest is so imp.

Committee opt: ① Objective class condns. Production up.
Wage up.

② Subjective condns - attitudes of workers towards their
condns. Boug. lines being put out.

③ Cadre opt - dept, area of work, contacts, problems
evaluating nonparty proletarians.

Reg'd
unit 2
weeks

Summary of the Production work committee mtg:

Next meeting is 8/4/74--reading in preparation is:
Imperialism and the Split in Socialism
Should Revolutionaries Work in Reactionary T.U.s
Importance of the Negro's peoples movement
On Strikes

Mtg following will be 8/18/74 when we will read Peters
Organizational Manual

Fractional method of work--Leninist style of work. It is the embodiment of the political line. While it is true that it was developed in order to structure factory fortresses this method of work applies to all Party work.

The fractional method of work is secret internally and ramified externally. Protect cadre in the industrial work situation by making their work secret except for a small part of the organization.

A summary of the points as to why the factory cell is the best form of organization:

- 1) Contradictions most acutely felt on the factory floor among the most exploited and oppressed on the floor. There is socialized work with common interests and problems.
- 2) A properly working, well-trained, politically developed shop cell, although it may have to work under the most difficult conditions, because of the highly developed spy system, still cannot be found out and eliminated by the boss. In order to stop the work of such a cell the boss must stop the factory.

The reality of the necessity for this kind of organization will sink home to many people very slowly. But we understand that workers correctly respect the results that this kind of an organization can achieve. And the fact that the union aristocracy cannot achieve these results is the most important aspect of this work. The fundamental principles of this work are consistency and secrecy.

- 3) The shop cell is trained to work in a conspirative manner, in order to organize and lend the other workers the necessary support, to safeguard the organization and prevent its members from being fired.

This means that the shop cell is the direct link with the masses. By being grounded with the workers it maintains its secret work and also supports the organization.

- 4) The shop cell registers the reactions of the most decisive elements of the proletariat to every issue. The reaction sentiment, opinion of the workers brought to the shop cell to the higher committee of the Party makes it possible to formulate the best policy or to correct and improve decisions.

Committee report:

1) Objective class conditions:

In relation to this aspect of the report some experimentation is necessary. Of course, the general is possible in analyzing the number of unemployed in the city, etc which JT and I will attempt to do from the labor reports and other material that we have available at the office.

I want to outline some of the particular information that we get as a result of our work in the area of workmen's compensation. The acute facet of our work revolves around three areas: plant closings, safety strikes of one kind or another and general difficulties faced by injured workers.

By acute I mean those areas where the operation of the system is functioning at a level that is even worse than that expected by the bourgeois. For example, a plant closing represents a crisis for a large number of workers at a level higher than the general problem of making a living. The same is true of a safety strike of a change in policy for workmen's compensation by a company (although the latter obviously is a much more subtle process).

2) The plant closing that we have had some contact with in the last year have been: Briggs Manufacturing; Huk manufacturing; Federal Mogul; Ex Gello Corporation; D.A.B. Manufacturing.

These are not all the plants that have closed in the Wayne county area, although we have done very little research on what other plants are closed or will close. Clearly, there is a general move in that direction--but more research is necessary to determine the exact extent of the trend.

3) The number of strikes in the last year has risen in militancy and consistency. Starting with the strike at Jefferson we have seen a fairly consistent of rank and file struggle against the conditions in the plants.

The strikes that we have had direct contact with are: Kercheval work in; Jefferson stoppage; the Detroit Forge safety strike; the Mack avenue strike; and the Dodge Truck strike. The general pattern is that one condition or another will start the strike which will then build until the entire plant is shut down. This will only occur in situations where there has been a number of problems at the plant and considerable agitation around the problems. Once the plant is down, the UAW immediately indicates that the strike is not union sanctioned and attempts to get the workers to return to work. When this fails then the Company obtains an injunction. Generally the strike is over after 2 or 3 days because the strikers have no apparatus to keep the strike going--that is, no means of consistent communication with the workers.

i.e. the "injuries" of capitalism

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4) In the area of workmen's compensation there is a general cutback on benefits that is being paid to the injured worker. The first means of accomplishing this is the appointment of much more conservative judges to replace the judges that have been forced off the bench or retired because of being tired of the work; in addition, the liberal judges were taken off by wealthy plaintiff's workmen's compensation lawfirms that needed more lawyers as a result of the increase in business that they were experiencing. The decisions that have been handed down from the Workmen's Compensation Appeal Board are much more conservative than 3 or 4 years ago. The Judges in Detroit have made a turn about in terms of denying more awards than they granted which is in direct reverse from 3 or 4 years ago.

The second method of cutback in terms of benefits available to the injured worker is in the area of the pension offset. In 1964 the UAW obtained an agreement from the Big 3 that there would be no offset for workmen's compensation received either in the form of a settlement or an award. At Chrysler and Ford this is now changed in that if a case is settled it means that there is a dollar for dollar offset from the injured worker's pension. This eliminates millions of dollars from the pockets of retired workers because there are many cases which cannot be won in trial but will settle for under \$5,000.00.

The combination of a much more conservative judge and a more limited access to the courts means that thousands of cases are not being brought at the present time.

5) In the area of Social Security there is little concrete information. One item is to point out that in approximately 1965, the AFL-CIO agreed that social security should be offset whenever a worker received workmen's compensation and in addition the test for a disabled worker was made much more rigid so it was more difficult for the disabled worker to collect social security.

In addition, a new trend is developing in that it is much more difficult for the worker to obtain his money. That is, there is now no less than a 6 month wait for the worker to be paid and the backlog is such that many families are left ~~XXX~~ waiting for an even longer time. There is some indication that the social security administration is improperly funded and will have even greater financial crises in the future; this is something that should definitely be watched because it would represent a major breakdown in the system if this became a generalized phenomenon throughout the social security system.