

# Monthly Supplement

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On the Road to Power (Part 2)

## Communist Fractions Pave the Way

(The first part of this article dealt with the importance of developing communist fractions on the job with which to win workers to the Party and revolution).

In some shops in which we work there may be a caucus or several caucuses. We **should not ignore them**. Depending on our forces and the nature of a particular caucus, we should decide which one or ones to work in. This is another avenue for putting forward the party line and stepping up the class struggle. In certain shops it may be advantageous to organize a caucus in order to have an action center for the more militant workers not ready to join the fraction. Again we should view these bodies as arenas for putting forward our politics within a body which is primarily organized for tactical purposes. One might say the party and club are strategic as well as tactical groups, and the caucuses are mainly tactical, but give us an opportunity for moving workers to the Left based on education and action.

Besides the caucuses, there are various union committees we should work in or set up. These committees can range from strike committees to anti-racist committees. Some unions have a committee structure which is usually dormant but sometimes we can revive them. But, as we utilize these committees for ideas and action, we should have no illusion that union leaders will leave the committee alone. So we must prepare for attack and counter-attack. However, as long as we can, we should try to use the union apparatus to further our revolutionary work.

Earlier, in a host of previous articles, we have stressed the need to focus our base-building on the shop in which we are working. Let's look at this a little more. We should have the view that as our work grows in the shop not only do we want to lead the shop, but we want the shop to become a leader of other workers in and out of the shops. Or, in other words, we want the shop and the workers in the shop to become a **political center for the working class**. Concretely, this means a particular shop in which we are an important or decisive force could win the workers to support other workers on strike; it may mean that the shop supports efforts of workers in other countries who are fighting the bosses by strikes or insurrection; it could mean that the shop may act on important community issues like anti-racism or supporting rebellions, giving these struggles as much as possible a political focus; there may be the occasion for general political demonstrations which oppose some governmental policy. In other words, **WE WORK IN THE SHOPS TO GATHER THE POLITICAL FORCES TO CHALLENGE THE RULING CLASS, NOT ONLY ON THE JOB BUT OFF THE JOB AS WELL**.

In the final analysis the battle for power, while starting at the point of production, moves to the battlefield. Shop work is the current crucial stage of the work for winning workers to revolution. However, unlike the Wobblies (the IWW) of past years, we are not out to simply seize the factories. We are out to seize state power.

In some cases our members or close friends of ours have won positions of leadership in local unions. These include stewards, delegates, committeemen, and some local officials. How do we see

using these posts to further the cause of revolution? One of the immediate reactions of party members who win positions of leadership is to only use them to further the economic struggle. They bury their heads in grievances, etc. Naturally, this is an important aspect of the work. Workers are very concerned about their immediate welfare. However, we should do at least three things that should grow out of and alongside of fighting on the issues of the day.

(1) We should personally or openly **CONNECT THE GRIEVANCE TO THE SYSTEM**. These grievances between boss and worker are **ANTAGONISTIC**. They will **never** go away even if we do win a particular grievance. Injustice to the workers is built into capitalist exploitation. So, while fighting hard to win the grievance, we should try to explain the relationship between continuous grievances and the system. Or better, the need to win socialism, where grievances can be solved **non-antagonistically**.

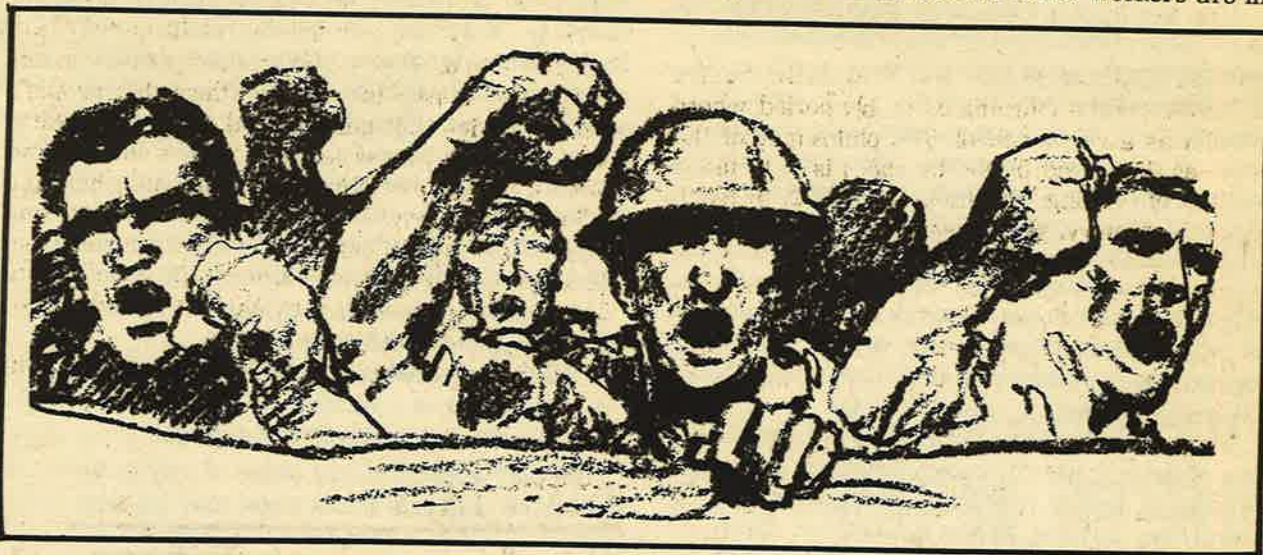
(2) We should develop such close ties to the workers that they feel free to bombard us with their criticisms of us and with all their questions about socialism and revolution. We should be talking to workers about an endless amount of political questions that are not necessarily job-related. Additionally, we should call meetings to discuss

really built our lives around the workers on the job, the party would grow rapidly.

At this moment, the capitalist system is coming apart at the seams. So, despite international reversals in Russia and China, the situation is positive. Our own weaknesses are holding us back. These weaknesses can only be overcome through confidence in the working class. Confidence can only come about by mutual struggle, close ties, and winning workers to the Left and into the party. But, **THE STARTING POINT FOR THIS PROCESS IS IN THE SHOP. THIS IS WHERE MOST OF OUR BASE MUST BE**.

Of course, the ruling class will do all in its power to prevent us from winning workers to the party. The essence of over-coming this and preventing separation, is by having such deep roots that they can't be uprooted by the bosses. Naturally, many tactics must be developed for circumventing and making it difficult for the bosses to get at us. **BUT THE BEST SECURITY IS TO HAVE A WALL OF WORKERS AROUND US**. Build this wall so high and so thick that the bosses can't break our ties.

So, building fractions is central to building for revolution. We base our work on shop workers to eventually be able to conduct armed struggle. We do not opt for electoral power. We do not work to share power with the bosses. Either workers are in



political questions and issues that workers are interested in. As stated earlier, these meetings could include discussions of local or national/international strike-support, important issues in the local; sharp issues on the job. In all cases—no matter how we come on—we should think of **HOW THE DISCUSSION MOVES WORKERS TO THE LEFT**. And after the meetings, we should follow up advanced workers individually, or workers who seemed especially interested in what was said, pro or con.

(3) We should use our positions of leadership **TO BUILD THE PARTY**. A good griever has a better chance to build the party than a passive one. This means getting PL literature into the shop; discussing the material, trying to get workers to sell the paper to others; trying to get shop-mates to sell letters or articles for the paper or magazine, especially the shop papers. In other words, we have to win workers to our line—away from the bosses' line. Objective developments, past and present, should encourage us in this goal. As a matter of fact, if we

power or the bosses are. History has taught us that you can't win power through elections. This is a universal aspect of Marxism-Leninism.

In summary the purposes and goals of fraction-building are:

- (1) Win workers to our party and to revolution.
- (2) Focus most of our work amongst the workers in the shop, at the point of production.
- (3) We want to eventually win most workers to our leadership; only communist leadership can put the workers on the offensive now, which will lead to revolution.
- (4) We should view the clubs and fractions as political bodies.
- (5) We should try to get the fraction to participate in all useful aspects of union life.
- (6) We should try to make our shop part of the leadership of the working class in an area, city, etc.
- (7) Communists and their friends who win and earn union leadership should use their positions to sharpen the class struggle, and win workers to the Left.