

To Build the Party

Sharpen the Class Struggle on Organizational Front *

"Good resolutions and declarations in favor of the general line of the Party are only a beginning; they merely express the desire for victory, but not the victory itself. After the correct political line has been laid down, organizational work decides everything, including the fate of the political line itself." (J.V. Stalin)

The Marxist-Leninist party wages a constant, persistent class struggle simultaneously on three main fronts: ideological, political, and organizational, both inside and outside the party. Among the masses, it fights to win the advanced workers to Marxist-Leninist ideology, to the political and organizational line of the party and into its ranks. It also fights to win the broad masses of people to the side of the party in the fight for democracy and socialism.

Within its ranks, this struggle takes the form of continuously revolutionizing the party, uplifting the ideological and theoretical level of the cadre, ensuring the correct development and implementation of the political line, and perfecting its organization. This simultaneous struggle on three main fronts focuses on exposing and defeating all alien bourgeois and revisionist influences, thereby enabling the party to act as the advanced detachment of the proletariat in its fight for socialism. As Lenin once pointed out, the proletariat's main weapon in the struggle for political power is organization. The Marxist-Leninist party represents the highest form of organization of the working class, and is its most powerful weapon in the struggle between labor and capital.

History has proven that once the political line of the party has been hammered out, the correct implementation of the organizational principles becomes decisive. Democratic centralism, which combines individual initiative and democracy at the base with centralized leadership, is the guiding organizational principle of the Marxist-Leninist party. Democratic centralism enables the party to achieve the iron discipline and maximum unity of will and action required for it to play its leading role in the class struggle.

A recent meeting of the Central Committee reviewed the work to build and strengthen the CPUSA/ML. It concluded that the struggle on the organizational front against deviations from the principles, norms, and Marxist-Leninist organizational line is today the key factor for the further ideological and political strengthening of the Party. Numerous concrete examples illustrated that further advances on these fronts require the strengthening of inner-Party democracy, improving discipline, securing a higher level of unity of will and action, and continuously applying the Party's industrial concentration policy.

The fight to enhance the organizational work of the Party will center on strengthening collective leadership and preparing the responsible Party bodies at all levels - the Central Committee, the District Committees, and the basic units - to fulfill their role as the main practical leaders of all the work under their jurisdiction. Thus the objective is to ensure that on a national scale, in a given district, factory or community, all Party bodies are actually working to alter the balance of class forces in favor of the proletariat.

The necessity to combat alien organizational manifestations in the work of the Party and its relationship to the mass movement is an essential element in the struggle against the influence of modern revisionism and social democracy. Every revisionist and social-democratic party is marked by its organization degeneration.

A hallmark of this decay is the denial of the monolithic unity of the party, achieved through the correct application of democratic centralism. The revisionist and social-democratic parties are characterized by factionalism, inner-party strife, violations of democracy and bourgeois conceptions of leadership. For basic units organized in the factories, they substitute "clubs" or "branches" without a territorial focus. In abandoning the Marxist-Leninist principles of organization, such parties have evolved into "social clubs" devoid of any revolutionary form or content.

The CPUSA/ML is waging a continuous battle against all alien influences to strengthen its ideological, political and organizational foundations, and thereby enhance its leading role among the working people.

* This article inaugurates a new column to appear regularly in UNITE! on various aspects of the building of the CPUSA/ML.