

Communist Party Clubs Inspired by Discussion on Tehran Meaning

By Bill Lawrence

The interest displayed in the report of Earl Browder on "Tehran and America," the large attendance at club meetings and the numerous questions asked, promise to enrich our preparations for the coming membership drive. In the spirit of true sons and daughters of America, deeply concerned about the welfare and future of the land, New York Communists have been discussing the meaning of every sentence in that report. Greater attendance at club meetings is to be noticed everywhere, and in a healthy and constructive spirit greater clarity is sought. A wave of optimism and a feeling of greater responsibility emerges from our meetings—a feeling of pride, that once again, when our nation is at the crossroads, Browder stepped forward and indicated the path.

But ours will indeed be false pride if this illuminated highway upon which our country must travel remains the property of the Communists. Browder charted the course for the whole of the American people, and to the people we shall, as we must, take it. All of our discussions, therefore, must be viewed with both eyes towards the people. Theoretical questions must be discussed in the realm of practical life, within the frame of issues affecting the people.

The question, "Why should I join the Communist Party when I am already a member of an advanced labor organization?" is answered by life itself. What other organization in the country, however advanced and progressive, has displayed such deep foresight and concrete program with regard to the post-war period? Millions of Americans are concerned today about their jobs in the future; mothers look at their

infants with fear in their hearts lest destiny hold another bloody slaughter for them; people, ready to make sacrifices today, wonder whether the future will provide them with plenty. The Communist Party, through the report of Earl Browder, offers the people new hope, a period of peace and prosperity. Shall we not share this hope with our friends and neighbors? If in the coming weeks we learn thoroughly the meaning of "Tehran and America," display unprecedented boldness and prepare organizationally, our membership drive will be crowned with success.

TO THE PEOPLE

With no partisan advantages and aim, we must not hesitate to bring our program to the people and ask them to judge us and join us on the basis of this program. The greater the number of Communists in the country, the worse for the anti-Tehran, anti-Roosevelt forces. The more people learn about "Tehran and America," the better the guarantee for its practical application. To build the Communist Party today is to help build a better America. It is a patriotic act.

It is often said: "In your attempts to recruit, do not fail to call on the Daily Worker and The Worker for assistance." Was it ever more true? What other English-language newspaper embodies the spirit, clarity and hope of "Tehran and America"? In short, in reply to the question on what issues do we ask people to join our Party today, we answer, "Use the report of Comrade Browder with all its ramifications, as expressed in the immediate issues of the people, such as subsidies, soldiers' vote, price ceilings, stabilization of wages, etc."

It should be equally clear that

between now and the national convention, we shall enlist people into the "Communist Party," which will continue under this name until such time as the convention decides otherwise.

NEW YORK GOAL

It is the intention of the New York State Committee that the New York Party organization open its drive the first two weeks in February with a 10 per cent accomplishment, based on an objective of 10,000 new members. Clearly, in addition to clarity, organization is imperative.

We should plan those meetings carefully. We should take all steps to visit contacts and press readers, to invite them and others to the February club meetings with the objective of recruiting them into the Party. Since the meeting of the national committee, many of our friends outside of the Party have besieged us with questions seeking clarity: Why not invite these friends to the February meetings of the club, and after answering their questions, urge them to join our Party?

To a great extent, a successful mass membership drive will depend on completing our registration. It is all very well to speak in terms of people responding to our Party once its program is thoroughly explained. If that holds true, and it does, it is even more true of those who are in the Party but have not been registered yet. Therefore, as part of the preparations for the coming membership drive and as another means of popularizing the report of Comrade Browder, renewed attempts must be made to clear the decks, thus enabling the plunge into the drive with the greatest possible participation.