

Comrade Ruthenberg,

The Builder of the Party

NOTE.—The Ruthenberg Membership Drive is developing momentum in all sections of the country. Many new members are coming into the Party. Even where the Party is the weakest, Ruthenberg Memorial Meetings, of considerable size, have been held. The DAILY WORKER today publishes the speech delivered by Ben Gitlow, member of the Party's Central Executive Committee, at the Chicago Ruthenberg Memorial Meeting. Much of this material will be brought together later in book form. Comrade Gitlow said:

Tomorrow We Will Remember.

WE have come to mourn Comrade Ruthenberg's death. Today we mourn and tomorrow we will remember. Comrade Ruthenberg was one of the most loyal and devoted members of the working class. Comrade Ruthenberg was the one outstanding leader of that class. Not only does the Communist movement of this country suffer on account of the death of our comrade but the working class in the United States suffers equally as well.

Comrade Ruthenberg was that fighter in the ranks of the working class that during the period of the world war and the reaction following the world war, organized in the United States, the most powerful capitalist country in the world, a revolutionary political party, that will lead the American working class to final victory.

Comrade Ruthenberg's life was devoted to the cause of the exploited and oppressed masses, not only in this country, but in every country in the world. American capitalism is brutal. American imperialism dominates and subjects to its will practically the entire world. In our factories, in our mines, and in all our establishments millions of toilers are daily exploited. Comrade Ruthenberg built for the millions of toilers a Party that will continue to inspire them to militant action, a Party that will lead them in the struggle for their own liberation, a Party that in spite of tremendous difficulties, in spite of a powerful capitalist militarism, will direct these millions of toilers to final victory.

I remember the great Russian Party, when the world Communist movement lost its most foremost and outstanding leader, Comrade Lenin. I remember at that time that the capitalist press rejoiced at the death of Lenin. They were positive that Lenin's death would usher in a new situation, not only in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union but in the whole revolutionary working class situation. But to the surprise of the capitalist world, the death of Lenin solidified the ranks of the revolutionary working class movement.

In the United States we have lost a great leader, a great leader not only of our Party but a great leader also for the American working class. The death of Comrade Ruthenberg is a severe blow to our Party. On the occasion of Comrade Ruthenberg's death we pledge ourselves as members of the revolutionary vanguard that his life, his action, his courage, his determination shall be the spirit that will guide us to consolidate our ranks, to strengthen our Party, and to march forward in the line of Comrade Ruthenberg, ever fighting until victory is won. One fact all must recognize. Out of the chaos, out of the disorder that results from capitalism, there is only one force that is disciplined, that has a program, that believes in that program and has the courage to put it into effect. There is only one uncompromising foe of capitalism in this country and in every other country in the world, and that uncompromising foe of capitalism is the Communist Party, together with the Communist Parties of all other countries welded together in a world Communist Party, the Communist International.

We must in memory of Ruthenberg, as a tribute to his life's activity solemnly pledge and decide that in these, the United States of America, we will build a Communist Party that in every factory will have a nucleus, a Communist Party against war, against capitalist brutality, against every dastardly act of capitalism. That we will build a Party which can give the signal to empty the factories, pour the masses into the streets, and demonstrate that real power lies in the working class, in the producing masses. If we continue to understand the importance of our Party, the importance of organization, and that we must have a powerful organization to overcome the mighty organization machine of the capitalists in this country, then the success of the Communist movement, the success of the proletarian revolution in this country is assured.

Comrade Ruthenberg, our friend, our comrade, our leader is no more. Comrade Ruthenberg, we are sad, we mourn, but Comrade Ruthenberg we do not mourn forever. Comrade Ruthenberg, in your spirit, in your understanding of the necessity of organization we mourn no more. We now continue to build so that we can fight, so that we can win.

Fellow workers, members of the great army of the American working class, if you are convinced that the Communist movement is the movement of the working class, if you are convinced that it is the only force that can lead to the overthrow of American capitalism, then you can best pay your tribute to the memory of our departed leader by joining the fighting revolutionary political party, the Workers (Communist) Party of America.