

Speak Your Piece

Ten Dollars in Honor Of Grandma Goldman

MINNEAPOLIS.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed is a check which came to us today, with this message: "The enclosed \$10 is in memory of our dear Grandma Goldeman from the Willow River Progressice Farmer Labor Club to her favorite paper the Daily Worker and The Worker." It was sent in by Mrs. Goldeman's daughter who adds a P. S.: "She would be so happy about this donation."

FREEDOM OF
PRESS COMMITTEE.

12-2-57.

33 Years Of Struggle

Editor, Daily Worker:

In subscribing again to the Daily Worker, as has long been my custom, I invite your readers to look back 33 years to the epic struggle that gave it birth. I would particularly recall to them the great eagerness with which Charles E. Ruthenberg, chief founder of the Communist Party, labored to launch the Daily.

Ruthenberg had founded three newspapers back in Cleveland in the old Socialist days. First was the Cleveland "Socialist," a weekly, which he edited before he became local organizer. Then came a mimeographed "Party Bulletin," gotten out for a year while the party organization was climbing out of a financial crisis, at the time he first accepted the combined job of secretary and organizer of local Cleveland. Next he established the "Socialist News," which was one of the predecessors of the "Daily Worker." (The other predecessors of the DW were the Ohio "Socialist," the "Toiler" and the Daily Workers namesake, the old Worker, a weekly paper which pre-dated the famous New York "Call," first English Socialist daily in the U.S.)

The first explicit announcement of an intention to launch a daily paper was on Feb. 2, 1922, across the masthead of the initial issue of The Worker (our own Worker, you understand). Right on the front page were the words, "This, the first issue of the Worker, is the advance agent of the Daily Worker."

That was just publicity. The actual first formal move to set up the paper was a resolution

at the Workers Party convention in January, 1923, which called for an "English Language Daily" to appear on Nov. 7 that same year. From then on there was a battle for funds such as you never saw. But even so, the Daily wasn't actually born till a couple of months later yet, Jan. 15, 1924, about a year after the resolution to establish it, and two years after The Worker had prophesied it.

During the months that followed there were news stories, editorials, cartoons, meetings, exhortations, constant toil, heavy sacrifices—to found the Daily Worker. "Without It You Can not Fight!" declared a Robert Minor cartoon, and right alongside was a signed Ruthenberg editorial describing the Daily as "an absolute necessity." But \$100,000 had to be raised to make the paper a reality!

Those who have "a monopoly of the news," Ruthenberg wrote, "can go a long way toward controlling the opinions as well as the understanding" of the workers. It was "inconceivable," he declared, that American workers could defend their own interests without "at least one great daily newspaper." To raise money and help get the Daily Worker started, he insisted, was the "most important Communist duty."

When at last the DW actually appeared, congratulations came from many countries, east and west, and, here at home, from liberals and radicals alike. Friendly notices in "The Freeman" and "The Nation" greeted the Daily's birth. (The London "Daily Worker, by the way, was founded after ours was.)

Now, 33 years later, the Daily Worker is in the worst crisis of its life, and, we may say, must be born again. It needs to be again made the essential weapon and tool of the workers vanguard. To accomplish this, the necessary funds must be raised. It will be a lot easier to rescue and re-animate the paper we have than to launch a new one from scratch—if we let THIS Daily Worker die.

—OAKLEY JOHNSON.

12/5/57.

Editorial Note: The writer of the foregoing letter is author of *The Day Is Coming*, a biography of Charles E. Ruthenberg being released this month by International Publishers.