

THOUSANDS MOURN RUTHENBERG AT THE MEMORIAL MEETING IN CHICAGO

The Ashland Auditorium Cannot Hold Crowds; Workers Pledge Themselves to "Fight On"

By ISRAEL AMTER.

(Special To The DAILY WORKER)
CHICAGO, Ill., March 6.—To the strains of Chopin's Funeral March the body of C. E. Ruthenberg, borne by members of the Political Committee of the Workers (Communist) Party, was carried into Ashland Auditorium this afternoon while over 6,500 stood and wept.

There were more than 2,500 others who were unable to gain admittance to the hall because the police closed the doors.

Max Bedacht, the chairman, spoke of the great loss to the American party, the American workers, and the international movement in the death of Comrade C. E. Ruthenberg.

He read telegrams from the Communist International, the Red Trade Union International, the Russian Communist Party, the Eleventh Convention of the German Communist Party, the Canadian Communist Party, the Kuomintang, the Young Communist League of Russia, and the Young Communist International.

Ruthenberg's last words, "Fight on. We will win," sounded the key note of the meeting. Benjamin Gitlow, a member of the Central Committee of the party, characterized Ruthenberg as one of the leaders of the party who had turned the Workers (Communist) Party to the workshops where it is steadily growing in numbers and in power.

"Ruthenberg was a great leader not only of our party," said Gitlow, "but of the whole working class. His determination and the example of his life will serve to consolidate the ranks of the workers, and help them to march forward to victory."

"Party Man," Says Cannon.

James P. Cannon, secretary of the International Labor Defense, described Ruthenberg as a pioneer of the revolutionary movement here, and one of the few Americans who could not be bought by the capitalist class.

"Ruthenberg was a party man," said Cannon. "He gave everything to the party, and showed an example to all around him of what a revolutionary soldier should be."

This idea was also expressed by William Z. Foster, secretary of the Trade Union Educational League, who said, "Ruthenberg was flesh of the flesh, blood of the blood, and bone of the bone of the Communist Party, and could not be corrupted by the capitalist class."

He Was True Bolshevik.

"He was a true Bolshevik, and we cannot do better than dedicate ourselves to carry out the work to which Ruthenberg devoted his life."

"Ruthenberg was also the leader of the young Communists," said Nat Kaplan, editor of the Young Worker. "During the war, Ruthenberg was the Karl Liebknecht of the American labor movement."

In behalf of tens of thousands of New York's workers, who knew of Ruthenberg's deeds, William W. Weinstone, secretary of District 2, expressed the deepest sorrow at the sudden death of the great leader.

"Ruthenberg was the foremost leader in the left wing of the Socialist Party," said Weinstone; "and it was he who helped to shape and form the Communist Party."

The Pioneers Join With Music.

Other speakers at the memorial meeting were Arne Swabeck, Chicago organizer of the party, who spoke of the severity of the loss of Comrade Ruthenberg, and Comrade Fod, who represented the Kuomintang.

The Pioneer Freiheit Singing Society and the Waukegan Communist Band provided revolutionary music.

The true spirit of the whole memorial was expressed in the closing words of Max Bedacht when he said,

"The only monument to our Comrade Ruthenberg will be the creation of a mass Communist Party in the United States that will lead on to victory."

"The Symbol of Our Party."

Jay Lovestone, who was on Saturday chosen acting general secretary of the party following Ruthenberg's death, said of the dead leader:

"He was to me the symbol of our party, fighting unceasingly an uphill battle against tremendous odds, against the most brutal, the most powerful imperialism the world has know. * * *

"At the left wing national conference, I vividly recall how it was Comrade Ruthenberg who stood out as the towering revolutionist. He gave out a certain concreteness, positiveness and Bolshevik poise and confidence in our deliberations. * * *

"Yes, Comrade Ruthenberg died
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Political Committee Selects Lovestone As Acting Party Secretary

CHICAGO.—At its meeting here on Saturday the political committee of the Workers (Communist) Party elected Jay Lovestone acting general secretary of the party to take up the tasks that C. E. Ruthenberg was forced by death to relinquish. Comrade Lovestone has been the head of the party's organization department.

Programs Grow As Comrades Prepare Meetings

While the great mass meeting in Ashland Auditorium, Chicago, was solemnly engaged Sunday afternoon in paying the last tribute to C. E. Ruthenberg, beloved leader of Communism in America, due arrangements were being made in a dozen cities for similar demonstrations of affection and regret, and to give the workers as a whole an idea of the things for which Ruthenberg stood while alive.

The first meeting after the funeral which will be held this morning in Chicago, will take place at Detroit tonight at 8 o'clock, in the Majestic Theatre.

New York Announces Plans.

Some of the speakers will come on from Chicago to New York to appear at the memorial exercises in this city. The New York District Executive Committee has decided to receive the ashes of Comrade Ruthenberg, in New York City, Tuesday night, with guard of honor. The New York memorial meeting will be Wednesday night, at Carnegie Hall.

At Baltimore Tuesday.

The Ruthenberg memorial meeting will be held in Baltimore on Tuesday, March 8, 1927 at 7.30 p. m., at the Conservatory Hall, 1029 E. Baltimore Street.

In Cleveland the memorial meeting for Comrade Ruthenberg will be held at the Slovenian Hall, 6409 St. Clair Avenue, on Tuesday, March 8, at p. m.

The speakers will be Max Bedacht, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Party; Herbert Zam, member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Workers League; John Brahtin and Tom Clifford who worked for many years with Comrade Ruthenberg in Cleveland. I. Amter, district secretary will preside. The Freiheit and Lithuanian Singing Societies will cooperate.

New York Memorial Wednesday.

The list of speakers for the great meeting prepared in New York continually grows. On it at present are Wm. Z. Foster, Jay Lovestone, Max Bedacht, William F. Dunne, Wm. W. Weinstone, M. J. Olgin, Ben Gitlow, Ben Lipshitz and Sam Don.

Only a few short weeks ago, at the Lenin memorial meeting, 20,000 workers in New York listened to a speech by Ruthenberg, and most of the speakers who now meet to commemorate Ruthenberg spoke with him from the same platform on that occasion. Carnegie Hall will be crowded by the workers gathered at this newest memorial meeting, Wednesday, March 9, in the evening.

Not only is a memorial meeting being arranged in Boston, but from all parts of the state, from the Finnish organizations, Lithuanian, Jewish and from a number of trade unionists an expression of sincere sympathy and sorrow has been received. Professor Harry W. L. Dana, states the loss could be only made up by redoubling the efforts of the entire movement. Resolutions are being adopted in all parts of the state.

Women's organizations are sending flowers. The Workers Education Institute of Roxbury has voted to send a bouquet of flowers to Ruthenberg funeral. To commemorate the life and work of Comrade Ruthenberg a large memorial meeting is arranged for Thursday, March 10th at 8 o'clock at Scenic Auditorium, Boston, Mass. The speakers will be comrades in the leading positions of the Party who were closely associated with Comrade Ruthenberg in his work. The principal speakers will be Benjamin Gitlow, New York, M. J. Olgin and Herbert Zam of the Young Workers League. A suitable musical program will

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Thousands Mourn at Big Chicago Gathering.

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fighting and working for the victory of the American proletariat and the international working class. * * *

"Came the great steel strike. General Wood is leading the cohorts of highly armed, uniformed strike breakers, American soldiers to crush the ranks of the workers. Comrade Ruthenberg's mighty revolutionary appeal, and the slogan, 'Fight against the government strike breakers,' aroused and inspired the thousands of steel workers of Gary to the most valiant resistance displayed in the whole strike. * * *

"Comrade Ruthenberg's courage in the class war was unbounded. Some of the best years of his life he spent in jail. There was an imperialist war; Comrade Ruthenberg was the first to go to jail in resisting it. The left wing of the socialist party was to be organized; Comrade Ruthenberg went to jail for playing the leading role in organizing the revolutionary workers. * * *

"I recall the scene at Bridgman. Comrade Ruthenberg was directing the organization of the comrades leaving the ground. I said, 'Come along.' I begged Comrade Ruthenberg to go. He said 'No, I'll stay until all are gone. I must do that.' * * *

"The splendid services Comrade Ruthenberg rendered to the American working class in his exemplary conduct in the Bridgman trial are inestimable. It was these services of Comrade Ruthenberg that made possible the legalization, at least for the present, of Marxists in America. Then the labor party. Here Comrade Ruthenberg was the pace setter. * *

Close Our Ranks.

"Let us close our ranks in this moment of our unfathomable grief. Let us go forward to battle with unbounded determination to win. Yes, farewell, Comrade Ruthenberg. Farewell our leader."

Lovestone will leave Chicago on Monday with the ashes of C. E. Ruthenberg, and will reach New York on Tuesday.