
Ruthenberg is Dead

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Death has taken from the ranks of the revolutionary movement in America Comrade C.E. Ruthenberg, the leader of the Workers (Communist) Party, the vanguard of the American proletariat.

Comrade Ruthenberg was best known to and most hated by the American capitalists as a Communist, and an implacable foe of capitalist exploitation and oppression.

He died on March 2, 1927, after being operated on for an acute attack of appendicitis which developed into peritonitis. He made a valiant fight to the last to continue so as to be able to render unceasingly his best and his all towards the victory of the American working class and the international proletariat.

Comrade Ruthenberg was the leader of the left wing and the anti-war movement in the Socialist Party in 1917. He was most instrumental in drawing up and securing the adoption of the famous St. Louis anti-war manifesto of the Socialist Party. It was Comrade Ruthenberg who led the fight against Hillquit, Berger, and the other right wing leaders and inspired and organized the left wing forces in the Socialist Party in 1919. Soon Comrade Ruthenberg became the leader of the Communist Party of America, organized in September 1919.

The courageous fight made by Comrade Ruthenberg before the Michigan court where he was charged with participating in a convention of the Communist Party of America, gained for the American Communist Party the recognition of its legality.

Comrade Ruthenberg was born on July 9, 1882, in Cleveland. He was the son of a longshoreman. He was a factory worker, clerk, newspaper correspondent, and then gave his whole time to the revolutionary proletarian movement, beginning with his work as organizer and secretary of the Socialist Party in the city of Cleveland from 1909 to 1919. Comrade Ruthenberg has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party and the Workers (Communist)

Party of America from their very inception. He has been Executive Secretary of the Communist Party from the day of its organization until his imprisonment in New York State Prison. He became General Secretary of the Workers (Communist) Party of America and has been secretary until the day of his death. Since 1924 Comrade Ruthenberg has been a member of the Executive Committee and the Presidium of the Communist International, the highest bodies of the International Communist movement. In his revolutionary activity Comrade Ruthenberg showed unflinching determination and indomitable courage. His term of penal servitude in the jail of Canton, Ohio, for his opposition in the great imperialist war only served to inspire him to mightier effort in the class war against capitalism. The many months he spent in Sing Sing prison for playing the leading role in the organization of the left wing movement in the Socialist Party only steeled his revolutionary ardor. His conviction as a Communist in the State Court of Michigan, now under consideration by the United States Supreme Court, was a signal for Comrade Ruthenberg and all of his followers to battle harder than ever against American capitalist tyranny.

The Workers (Communist) Party of America is conscious of its tasks as the vanguard of the American working class. We recognize our severe loss in the death of Comrade Ruthenberg, who was the most dynamic force in our campaign for the development of the labor party movement, the building of the left wing in the trade unions, the campaign for the protection of the foreign-born workers, the struggle against American imperialism, and other major campaigns of our party. We pledge ourselves to prosecute with greater vigor than ever all of these campaigns.

Comrade Ruthenberg was a Bolshevik. His life and efforts have been an inspiration to the militant and revolutionary workers of America. His death will only serve to steel our revolutionary purpose, to close our ranks, to fight on until the victory of the American working class is assured, until the establishment of the Workers' and Farmers' Soviet Republic of the United States.

Comrade Ruthenberg's last words to the members of the Workers (Communist) Party and the other American workers were:

"TELL THE COMRADES TO CLOSE THEIR RANKS, TO BUILD THE PARTY. THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR PARTY AND THE COMINTERN, WILL WIN. LET'S FIGHT ON!"

The Central Executive Committee of the Workers (Communist) Party of America pledges itself and the entire membership of the Workers (Communist) Party to fight on in the spirit and determination of our dead leader, Comrade Ruthenberg.

**For the Central Executive Committee,
Workers (Communist) Party.**

Members of the Political Committee:

Max Bedacht.

Alexander Bittelman.

J.P. Cannon.

J. Louis Engdahl.

William Z. Foster.

Benjamin Gitlow.

Jay Lovestone, Secretary,
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