
New Leader Refuses to Admit Fabrication of Stalin's Speech

by C.E. Ruthenberg

General Secretary, Workers (Communist) Party

Published in *The Daily Worker* [Chicago], vol. 3, no. 208 (September 16, 1926), pg. 4.

The statement of the Central Committee of the Workers (Communist) Party containing the telegram from the head of the Agitprop Department of the Communist International declaring that the speech attributed to Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was an out and out fabrication, was sent to *The New Leader*, the New York Socialist organ with a request for publication.

The New Leader had published the speech attributed to Stalin on August 14 [1926] with some additional misrepresentations of its own.

The following reply to this request has been received from James Oneal, the editor of *The New Leader*:

Mr. C.E. Ruthenberg,
1113 W Washington Blvd.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your astonishing note of September 9 [1926] with enclosure of a mimeograph statement alleged to be an answer to a news story carried in *The New Leader* of August 14. You ask that this statement be published in *The New Leader*.

My dear Mr. Ruthenberg, I am astonished at your request and the "petty bourgeois" prejudice which you display in your note. You want us

to print your statement. My dear hero of the Michigan woods,¹ don't you know that you could not get a line in *The New Leader* and that you have wasted two cents in postage in sending your statement to us?

Let me explain. We believe in dictatorship — especially for you and your kind. Good dope, isn't it? Comes direct from the holy city of Moscow and bears the imprint of the Plenum of the Presidium of the CC of the CP of the GP of the CCC of the CPUSA.² You subscribe to it? Fine! We apply it to you. Not a line in *The New Leader*. Good Leninist organizational tactics, isn't it? (See Thesis 231 adopted by the EZ extraordinary session of the Plenum and unanimously endorsed by the Presidium of the CP of the GP of the CCC of the CPSU, chapter 92, section 64, verse 23, page 1,781). It is all clear in this reference so that no "betrayal of the working class" or "counter-revolutionist" can pervert it from its true meaning.

How did you happen to fall into the "bourgeois deviation" of thinking that *The New Leader* would accept anything from you? Moreover, where we got our story is none of your business. We are under no obligation to you to explain anything that appears in the columns of *The New Leader* and we do not expect you to explain to us anything that appears in your publications. Please understand this and don't trouble us any more with your "petty bourgeois prejudices" about the "workers' and peasants' government in Russia." Anybody that can sell you that idea will be able to sell you stock in a flower garden at the North Pole. Forget it.

Hoping that you will sometime recover from your Bolshevik souse, I am,

Very truly yours,

James Oneal.

We need not comment on the mass of verbiage under which the editor of *The New Leader* hides the direct refusal to correct an out-and-out lie which is published. Every intelligent worker can draw his own conclusions as to the caliber of the editor who writes such a letter.

The fact that stands out in this matter is that Editor Oneal of *The New Leader* took from the capitalist press a dispatch grossly slander-

¹ Reference is to the abortive August 1922 convention of the underground Communist Party of America, held amongst the wooded sand dunes outside of Bridgman, Michigan. Ruthenberg was arrested in conjunction with the raid and the subject of a highly publicized trial, at which he was convicted and sentenced to a prison term. The sentence was appealed and the verdict upheld, but Ruthenberg died in 1927 prior to his imprisonment.

² The acronym is an absurdism, intended to make fun of the bureaucratic language often used by Communist functionaries.

ing the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, published this in his paper without giving the source of the dispatch, and then when caught in having published a manufactured speech, refuses to tell the truth to the readers of his paper.

The Socialist Party has sunk low indeed when it is necessary for it to publish manufactured speeches assigned to Communist leaders in order to carry on the struggle against Communism and Communist principles. The triumph of the proletarian revolution in Russia, the success of the proletarian dictatorship in building a socialist economic system, is becoming so clear to the workers that the Socialists can no longer challenge it on the basis of facts. The alternative is to use manufactured documents such as the capitalist governments have been using against the Communist International. It is to this method of carrying on the fight against the Communists that *The New Leader* and its editor have now descended.

The letter of Oneal is a confession of bankruptcy in the fight against Communist principles, which today give leadership to the revolutionary workers in the struggle against capitalism.

Edited by Tim Davenport

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · March 2014 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.