
Ruthenberg is Jailed Under New Ohio Law: Socialist Locked Up on Charge of “Criminal Syndicalism” — Called War “Mass Murder.”

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(Special to *The Call*.)

CLEVELAND, Ohio, July 19.— C.E. Ruthenberg, Socialist candidate for Mayor of Cleveland and Secretary of the local organization, was under arrest here today on the charge of violating the newly enacted Syndicalism Act. He was making his first campaign speech last night when a squad of police, led by Chief Smith, broke up the meeting.

There was no disorder.

Six others were held with Ruthenberg “for investigation by Federal authorities.” One of these has served 22 months in France as a volunteer.

The specific charge against Ruthenberg was the alleged characterization, in his speech, of the world war as a “mass murder.” Ruthenberg used the words in the following context:

If it is possible for the government to take over the steamships and railroads, telephone and telegraph lines and other public utilities in time of war in order to make mass murder more efficient, why is it not possible for these same industries to be publicly controlled for the common good of all in times of peace?

Ruthenberg spent the night at the central police station.

Last night’s meeting in Royal Hall marked the opening of the Socialist campaign here, after the Director of Public Safety had definitely announced that under no circumstances were the Socialists to be per-

mitted to hold street meetings. Ruthenberg had spoken for about a half hour, at times drawing tumultuous applause from his audience, when Inspector Graul went toward the platform and beckoned him to stop. Ruthenberg immediately announced that the meeting was over and accompanied the police officer.

Meanwhile members of the audience were being examined by “Loyal American Leaguers,” who are functioning here in place of the recently disbanded APL [American Protective League].

The following were some of the questions asked: “Are you a Socialist? Are you an American citizen? What does the red flag symbolize? Do you believe in the Soviet government? What periodicals do you read? Have you ever been arrested?”

A large crowd gathered around the automobiles of Chief of Police Smith and J.J. MacEwen, George K. Wadsworth, and A.H. Healy, leaders of the Loyal American Leaguers, when they left the hall. But for a few jeers there was no disorder.

This is the fourth time Ruthenberg has been arrested within the last two months. As a result of the May Day demonstrations there are indictments against him of assault to kill. Ruthenberg stated that the mass meeting scheduled to be held this Sunday would not be postponed in spite of yesterday’s developments.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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