

Aaron Gross -- Communist

by Ben Gitlow

The death of Comrade Gross deprives the working class of a young proletarian leader, a Communist and courageous fighter.

The working class has every reason to be proud of its young Gross and to pay tribute to his memory now that he is gone.

The workers from the factories gave us Gross. The confidence which they placed in him has not been in vain. His whole life was devoted to the cause of the workers. His whole being, agitated by a hatred of capitalism, was inspired with great love and devotion for the working class.

In the trade union he was uncorruptible. Always a militant and a revolutionist. Always a leader of the rank and file! Whether it was against the bosses or against their agents, the reactionary bureaucrats, we find Comrade Gross in all the struggles in the vanguard inspiring the workers, educating them, organizing them and leading them in the battle. In victory and in defeat he was always true to his class!

Comrade Gross was not a spectacular dramatic figure. He was the strategist, the planner, the one who mapped out the field of operations. But he was not satisfied to remain behind and just plan. He was always to be found in the thickest of the fight. The modest little Gross

was to be found on the picket lines, in the midst of combats. He was feared by the bosses and hated by the reactionaries.

Comrade Gross was a leading figure in the trade union movement in the building up of a left wing. He was uncompromising in his fight against the reactionary trade union bureaucrats and their policies of peace and cooperation with the bosses. He was always for the building up of a broad united front of labor for a fighting policy against the bosses, for organization of the unorganized and for industrial unionism. Today, when the left wing has been abandoned and liquidated by the official Communist Party leadership and by the T.U.U.L., we find Comrade Gross conducting an energetic campaign, particularly in the needle trades, to revive the left wing and to build it up as a mighty movement of the trade union masses in the United States.

Comrade Gross was a Communist. He recognized that if his class was to be freed, capitalism had to be overthrown by a revolutionary working class. His activities in the trade unions and in the labor movement generally were always directed to develop the consciousness of the workers, to increase their militancy and to prepare them in their struggles against the bosses for the revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

He recognized the necessity of building a mass movement against capitalism. He was a foe of sectarianism, was always for working with the trade union masses, in their organizations in order to win them for a revolutionary program and to rally them against capitalism. The success of the Communists in the needle trades in a large measure is due to the wisdom and policies brought forward by Comrade Gross. The Communist movement cannot easily fill in the gap left by his death.

He was a Communist of deep conviction. The principles of Communism and the policies and tactics of the Party were not mere dogmas to him. When the line of the Communist International began to be revised, when policies were

adopted that divided the forces of the workers and isolated the Communists and discredited Communism, Comrade Gross rebelled and fought for correct working class policies. He was not satisfied to agree to submit to the revision of Communist principles and the wrecking of the Communist movement. So he fought, regardless of the consequences. For this he was expelled by the Communist Party leadership and the most vicious campaign was started by them to discredit him.

But the principles for which Comrade Gross fought are today being vindicated. The slander campaign has failed. The workers are not deceived. They know their Gross and they respect and love him.

Today, we mourn our departed comrade. But as workers, we are inspired by his life. It is rich in service to our class. From him we draw renewed courage and determination to fight on for unity and victory.

Nothing can besmirch the vision of a modest proletarian, slight of stature, with an ironical, gentle, roguish smile, eyes that sparkled with the fire of battle, a searching restlessness for the future.

That is Gross, brave proletarian, Communist, fighter. The leader of workers and one of them. Out of such metal will the revolutionary army be made and the revolution against capitalism won.

IN THE STRUGGLE

Shapiro

that he lived and died for the cause of the working class.

The only way we can commemorate Aaron Gross is by continuing the fight for what Comrade Gross fought and died for—for the establishment of real militant fighting unions, for the unification of the working class against capitalism, for the unification of the Communist movement the world over.

WORKING WITH

by B. Co

It is difficult to write now, when the wound is still open and the pain great, of a comrade who was so respected and loved. It is difficult to get used to the idea that Gross is dead, that quiet, modest Gross—the cohesive force at every meeting—lies dead, torn from his friends and comrades. No wonder the right wing Forward clique sought to get rid of Gross. The attack on him in