

COMRADE RUTHENBERG'S ESTIMATES

By ARNE SWABECK.

In yesterday's issue of the DAILY WORKER, under the caption "The results of the first membership meetings," Comrade Ruthenberg has the following to say:

"Another factor which entered into the results last Sunday was the eleventh hour change in the rules covering the meetings, which denied members not attached to the city central committees in the cities in which the meetings were held the right to vote. This rule, disfranchising the party members from nearby cities was made in order to cut down the strength of the minority, particularly in the Chicago meetings. In Chicago even the members living in Pullman, which is industrially and geographically a part of Chicago, who were overwhelmingly for the minority position, were denied the right to vote in the Chicago membership meeting. The votes of the Pullman comrades alone would have changed the result in the Chicago meeting."

This may look quite convincing on paper, but what are the actual facts?

First, the central executive committee confining the vote at each meeting to the members actually attached to the respective city central committees seems to have been a very appropriate one, at least as far as the Chicago meeting was concerned, in order to avoid duplication of the Pullman membership vote which already on December 26 recorded itself 38 to 5 for the minority position. Secondly, it will be noted that this vote, already previously recorded in the DAILY WORKER, gives the lie to the contention of disfranchising of party mem-

bers. Thirdly, although Pullman is industrially and geographically a part of Chicago our membership there has for the last two years functioned through their own separate C. C. C.

The Chicago party membership is overwhelmingly for the majority position and the vote recorded at the membership meeting of 399 to 362 is by no means an accurate proportion. Out of eight English branches with a total membership of 244 the minority has been able to carry one of the smaller branches while the number of the total who have expressed themselves for the minority position amounts to 46.—Quite significant. Isn't it?

Of the total number of language federation branches, the Italian, Lettish, Lithuanian and South Slavic were practically unanimous for the minority, some of their bureaus having been extremely active in lining up the membership even to the extent of furnishing loads of resolutions favoring that position to their branches. In most of these branches it has not been possible to gain admittance for a majority representative during the party discussion, in others little or no discussion took place as it seems they were too preoccupied in preparing to bring out all members for the membership meeting to record their vote and these particular branches were represented about 100 per cent. The minority vote was furnished almost wholly by these four big blocks. The other language federation branches except a small Hungarian branch are overwhelmingly for the majority position but they did not attend the meeting quite so well.