Salutsky — A Communist?

by C.E. Ruthenberg

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J.B. Salutsky sat on the Conference for Progressive Political Action as a delegate from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

J.B. Salutsky is a member of the Workers Party and a member of the Central Executive Committee of that party.

On Monday afternoon [Dec. 11, 1922], after C.E. Ruthenberg had demanded a report from the credentials committee on the credentials of the Workers Party, Edward Keating, editor of Labor, made a vicious attack on the Workers Party, charging that it was being financed by the employers.

Salutsky remained silent.

R.D. Cramer, of the Minneapolis Trade and Labor Assembly, not a member of the Workers Party, rose to his feet to defend the Workers Party, telling of its part in the Minneapolis labor movement.

Salutsky remained silent.

On Tuesday morning Ludwig Lore and C.E. Ruthenberg went to Salutsky and in the name of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party demanded that he speak in favor of the Workers Party on the floor of the convention.

On Tuesday morning the credentials committee of the Conference reported against seating of the Workers Party delegates because “the principles of this organization are not in harmony with those of this conference.”

The chairman asked whether there was any objection to the acceptance of the report.

Salutsky remained silent.

R.D. Cramer, of Minneapolis, rose and moved that the report be not concurred in.

All that was necessary to precipitate a contest on the issue of admittance of the Workers Party which quite possibly would have resulted in a favorable vote was a strong backing to Cramer’s motion — a second to the motion.

Salutsky remained silent.

Let the party judge him.