

GITLOW URGES CORRECTION IN SPEECH REPORT

Not Opposed to Political Action for Communists

By BENJAMIN GITLOW.

(Special to The Daily Worker.)

TOLEDO, Ohio, Sept. 29.—In W. J. White's article on my speech at Girard, Ohio, a gross misstatement appears. He quotes me as stating that the working class could never hope to emancipate itself thru political action.

Workers Must Own Government.

I am at loss to know where Comrade White got that statement because I never made it. He probably misinterpreted what I had to say about the election of Foster and Gitlow. I stated that when the workers of this country would be prepared to elect Foster and Gitlow they would be prepared to replace the present capitalist government with a workers government, owned and controlled by the workers and serving the interests of the workers. In such a government the workers would not be concerned with presidents and vice-presidents. The workers' government would be altogether different from the present government of the United States. It would be a government of Soviets drawing its power from the ranks of the workers in the mines, mills, shops, etc., and from the workers on the land.

Embraces More Than Elections.

As a Communist I have long realized that the emancipation of the working class will be accomplished thru political action. To hold otherwise would put me out of the pale of Communists. As a Communist I do not take a narrow view of political action.

To me political action is not confined merely to election campaigns and the casting of a ballot. Political action includes all forms of action on the part of the working class that undermines the political power of the capitalist class, and prepares the proletariat for the struggle against and final overthrow of the capitalist state. Parliamentary action is only a form of Communist political action, limited in its scope, because Communists maintain that thru parliamentary action and the use of capitalist state machinery the workers can never hope to abolish capitalist rule let alone the capitalist system.