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FEBRUARY 8, 1941

OKLAHOMA SETS UP HOME-GROWN DIES COMMITTEE

Orders C.S. Defendants to Appear With Records

Illegally Seized by State in Raids

Latest developments in the attack on the Bill of Rights in Oklahoma consist chiefly of Hitler-style actions taken in the state legislature culminating in the setting up of a home-grown baby "Dies" committee, it was announced by the International Labor Defense last week in a statement urging renewed efforts in support of the defense of the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism victims.

The leading defendants in the criminal syndicalism cases have been "commanded" to appear before Oklahoma's inquisition-legislative committee bringing with them "all records." Those ordered to appear were Robert Wood, and his wife, Mrs. Ina Wood; Alan Shaw, and his wife, Mrs. Nena Beth Shaw; Eli Jaffee and Elizabeth Green. The fact that all records belonging to these defendants had been illegally seized in the "liquor search warrant" raids of last August 17 which resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of 18 men and women in Oklahoma City, did not interfere with the orders of the state legislative committee.

The Oklahoma Senate Committee To Investigate Communist and Alleged Subversive Activities was established quite suddenly last week after the Senate Committee on Elections and Privileges had created a furor by refusing to permit certain citizens opposed to a bill outlawing the Communist Party to speak before it.

Rev. Paul S. Wright, leading Presbyterian minister of Oklahoma, appeared in opposition to the bill which had passed the lower House of Oklahoma's legislature by a vote of 118 to 0. The bill outlaws all parties "directly or indirectly affiliated with the Communist Party, the Third Communist International or any foreign political agency, party, organization". When Rev. Wright attempted to state his opposition to this bill he was abruptly stopped by State Senator Thompson who wanted to know whether the Rev. Wright thought "Stalin could do a better job of running this government than President Roosevelt." Rev. Wright's repeated objections to this question as irrelevant, brought a peremptory order for his ejection. Robert Wood, sentenced to 10 years and \$5,000 fine under the Oklahoma Criminal Syndicalism law, asked to be heard. The sergeant-at-arms had to be summoned to quell the disorder which followed this request.

The next day the Senate Committee on Elections asked the Oklahoma press to inform Mr. Wood and Eli Jaffe, another c. s. defendant, that they could appear before a private session of the committee. Wood and Jaffe refused.

Immediately after their refusal came the announcement of the establishment of a legislative committee to investigate "communistic and alleged subversive activities."

In addition to the criminal syndicalism defendants, 21 of Oklahoma's outstanding educators and civic leaders, all of whom are now connected with the Oklahoma Committee to Defend Constitutional Rights have been commanded to appear.

Gov. Philips voiced loud approval of the investigating body with the statement: "Why should we give free run to those left-wingers, pinks, reds, Communists and those of the lunatic fringe who advocate overthrow of our government?"

"The Hitler-style methods of the Oklahoma baby 'Dies' Committee," the I. L. D. statement pointed out, "will certainly serve to increase the acti-

vities of the defense in behalf of the victims of the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism law. Not content with prosecuting them in the courts though not even by the prosecution are they accused of having committed any crime, Oklahoma reactionaries are now determined to harass them by means of their legislative-inquisition. The I. L. D. calls upon all its members and friends, all those individuals and organizations which have already given support to the Oklahoma defense to renew their efforts in behalf of the Oklahoma terror victims. More than ever before must victory in their cases be assured and provision made for adequate defense all the way to the United States Supreme Court if necessary. One imperative need of the defense is the sum of \$2,500 before the end of this month. The I. L. D. is confident that this need will be met."