

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 14, 1940

LAST OF OKLAHOMA DEFENDANTS FREED ON BAIL

All C. S. Law Victims in Oklahoma Cases Now out on Greatly Reduced Bonds

Mrs. Wood To Be Permitted to Leave State

With Eli Jaffe and J. I. Whidden, the only two Oklahoma criminal syndicalist law victims remaining in jail, freed on Friday December 13, on greatly reduced bonds, the International Labor Defense announced that it had succeeded in securing the release of all the defendants in the Oklahoma cases on bail reduced from a figure originally set at over \$1,000,000 to \$57,000.

Jaffe's bail was reduced from \$20,000 to \$5,000 and J. I. Whidden's to \$500. Bail funds were raised through the efforts of the International Labor Defense.

Setting of bail for Jaffe and Whidden followed the verdict of 10 years and \$5,000 fine for "membership in the Communist Party" in the case of Alan Shaw on December 9.

The court also granted permission for Mrs. Ina Wood, free on \$5,000 bail to leave the State of Oklahoma for urgently needed medical treatment in the East. The only other defendant thus far granted permission to leave the jurisdiction of the local court was 17 year old Orval Lewis twice arrested since the inception of the cases. Young Lewis was permitted to go to Chicago where he is now attending an electrical school.

"With the bail fight won," the I.L.D. announcement on the freeing of Jaffe and Whidden stated, "the defense drive must now continue with greater intensity. The Oklahoma defense will be a tough, long-drawn-out fight -- and an expensive one. So expensive, the prosecution obviously hopes that friends of the Oklahoma defense will not succeed in making it. This was obvious in the original bail set. But the prosecution was roundly licked on that score. Not only was the fight to reduce the excessive amount set successful, but EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS IS NOW FREE ON BAIL. The I.L.D. urges all its members and friends to proceed at once to the job of raising defense funds which will run into thousands of dollars."

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ILD ANNOUNCES APPEAL OF SHAW CASE TO OKLAHOMA HIGHER COURTS

The conviction of Alan Shaw, 22, in Oklahoma City for violation of that state's criminal syndicalism law on the grounds that he is a member of the Communist Party, and the sentence of 10 years and \$5,000 recommended by the trial jury were denounced last week by the International Labor Defense as a "travesty on justice and a denial of the Bill of Rights," in a statement announcing that the case will be immediately appealed to the higher courts of Oklahoma.

"The International Labor Defense which has participated in the defense of the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism law victims since their illegal seizure and arrest last August, does not accept Prosecutor John Eberle's dictum that the Shaw verdict 'means that any person who is a member of the Communist Party is subject to conviction under the criminal syndicalism law and liable to receive the maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment'", the I. L. D. statement said. "That savage sentence together with a similar sentence for Robert Wood on the grounds of possession of books, have yet to be upheld by the higher courts of Oklahoma and the question of the very constitutionality of the law under which they were tried to be settled. In neither of the Oklahoma convictions were illegal acts charged. In neither case, nor in the cases of 10 others indicted on similar grounds, were the men and women involved accused of having done anything criminal.

"The Oklahoma vigilante-prosecutions are a travesty on justice and an outright denial of the Bill of Rights. The International Labor Defense is determined to fight these cases all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary until freedom is won for all the defendants."

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