

## SPECIAL OKLAHOMA DEFENSE DRIVE LAUNCHED

A special Christmas appeal for Oklahoma Defense funds launched on December 19, by the International Labor Defense appeals for "a greater intensification in the defense drive now that the bail fight has been successfully won."

Pointing out that two cases, Robert Wood and Alan Shaw, are now being taken to the higher state courts on appeal, with a U. S. Supreme Court fight almost certain to follow, the I.L.D. appeal stated:

"John Eberle, the proud prosecutor, has announced to the entire nation, that the Shaw conviction means 'imprisonment for 10 years for anyone who is a member of the Communist Party.' The International Labor Defense does not accept Mr. Eberle's interpretation of the law. Neither does the law itself. The I.L.D. is at once appealing this unjust verdict to the higher courts where sufficient precedent exists to negate Mr. Eberle's dictum. The Oklahoma cases--the Wood case, the Shaw case and as many others of the remaining 10 pending which Mr. Eberle chooses to try singly or jointly--will be taken all the way to the Supreme Court by the I.L.D. until justice and freedom is won for all the defendants.

"This means 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--\$100,000 each on the heads of six of the defendants-- the total adding up to something over \$1,000,000. But the prosecution was roundly licked on this 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. With the bail fight won, the defense drive must continue with greater intensity. An indication of the costs involved: the stenographic transcript alone of Mr. Eberle's speech to the jury in the Shaw case cost \$150. The stenographic transcript of the minutes of the Wood trial cost \$583.63. When the present flu epidemic hit Oklahoma it struck Mr. Croon of defense counsel and twice during the Shaw trial an I.L.D. attorney had to be rushed by plane from Chicago to assist in the defense. It is clear that the defense of the Bill of Rights in Oklahoma will require vast sums of money over a long period of time."

## ILD RECOMMENDS OKLAHOMA PAMPHLET FOR WIDE DISTRIBUTION

Recommended as an excellent background picture of the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism cases, the International Labor Defense last week recommended for nation-wide distribution a pamphlet called, "OKLAHOMA STORY - 1940" by Rev. Owen A. Knox.

Carey McWilliams, Chief of the Division of Immigration and Housing of the State of California adds a statement urging support of the Oklahoma Defense to the stirring factual account presented by Rev. Knox who is chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

All those who are interested in obtaining this excellent pamphlet are urged to order it directly from the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, 1410 H St., N. W., Room 102, Washington, D. C. They are available at 1¢ a piece to organizations.