

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### MARCANTONIO URGES SUPPORT OF I.L.D. XMAS DRIVE

#### Appeals For Aid to Democracy's Defenders Behind Prison Bars Here

Reminding the American people that a group of democracy's defenders in this country, this year more than ever before need support, Congressman Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, last week appealed for generous response to the annual I. L. D. Christmas Drive.

"Christmas 1940 comes upon us in critical times--in times when defense of democracy is uppermost in the minds of all progressives," Mr. Marcantonio's appeal stated. "May I remind you of a group of democracy's defenders who this year, more than every before, need your friendly sympathy and support?"

"Among them are old friends whom you have generously assisted in the past--J. B. McNamara for whom this will be the 30th Christmas behind prison walls, five Scottsboro Boys, scores of Negro and white trade unionists, sharecroppers, unemployed and among them are many new wards."

Mr. Marcantonio pointed especially to the 12 victims of the Oklahoma Syndicalism Law now facing 10 to 20-year prison terms and the 4 victims of a similar law in Illinois as examples of the new cases facing the I. L. D. at the present time.

"We have the word of Attorney General Jackson and the U. S. Director of Budget," Mr. Marcantonio continued, "to the effect that there will be a great number of prisoners to be handled in the near future. I.L.D. records show that adding in only those cases presently before the courts in various parts of the country, and only cases in which the possible penalty is anywhere from 2 to 25 years imprisonment, there are some 180 men and women now on trial or facing trial in the immediate future on charges ranging from criminal syndicalism and fraud, to treason, riot, violation of the anti-trust law, conspiracy and forgery."

Stressing the fact that upon the success of the 1940 Christmas Drive depends the extent to which the I. L. D. will be able to meet its obligations to labor's prisoners and their families in the form of regular monthly relief, Mr. Marcantonio urged prompt and generous response to the annual appeal.

"A contribution to the I. L. D. Christmas Drive 1940 will mean that a child somewhere in America--Alabama or Oklahoma or Ohio--will have warm clothing for the winter, a doll, a book, some candy. It will also mean a contribution towards defense of the Bill of Rights--an action that becomes a ringing answer to the forces seeking to destroy the hard-won liberties of the American people--an expression of sympathy and admiration for people in jail though innocent of any crime save the courage of their convictions."

All contributions to the I. L. D. Christmas Drive may be sent directly to campaign headquarters at 112 East 19th Street, New York City or to any local office of the I. L. D.

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#### SECOND OKLAHOMA TRIAL CONTINUED BECAUSE OF DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S ILLNESS

Leaving his sick bed in Tulsa, Oklahoma to appear before Judge Ben Arnold in the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism cases, George Croom, defense attorney won a continuance in the case of Alan Shaw now on trial in Oklahoma City, until such time as the defendants constitutional rights could be adequately protected, it was announced by the I. L. D. last week. The trial will resume on Monday, Dec. 7.

Shaw has been on trial since November 19, charged with criminal syndicalism on the basis of membership in the Communist Party. The first interruption in his trial came when Judge Arnold declared a week end recess during which he dismissed the jury and during which he said he would study a large volume of the printed material to decide on its pertinence as evidence. The second came during the prosecution's wind up this week when Mr. Croom of defense counsel was stricken with influenza.

Repeated requests by the defense for a postponement until Mr. Croom recovered were denied by Judge Arnold.

The International Labor Defense rushed one of its attorneys, Max Naiman, of Chicago, to Oklahoma City by plane to assure Shaw of adequate representation. Naiman pleaded for the necessity of Croom's appearance in the court room and finally secured a postponement.

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#### ILD SUPPORTS AMERICAN RESCUE SHIP MISSION

Following Congressman Vito Marcantonio's announcement that the International Labor Defense would support the American Rescue Ship Mission for Spanish Refugees, the I. L. D. last week urged all its members and friends to aid the project in every way possible.

"Our president, Congressman Marcantonio, stated that it is a cause which is deserving of the support of every person who believes genuinely in democracy," the I. L. D. statement said, "and we feel certain that all members and friends of the organization will want to aid the men, women and children who at one time fought the battle for democracy and are now behind barbed wire, policed under the supervision of Nazi terror."

Mr. Marcantonio's announcement of support carried with it the message the "The American people are daily learning what happened in Spain, what happened in France, what happened in Britain. The American people are daily more firmly resolving that it shall not happen in America, so that there shall not be an American Rescue Ship necessary for the American people."

Members and friends of the International Labor Defense interested in aiding the American Rescue Ship Mission which has among its sponsors to date James Truslow Adams, Ethel Barrymore, Prof. Franz Boas, Bishop Benjamin Brewster, Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel, Lion Feuchwanger, Dr. Abraham Flexner, Dean Christian Gauss, Yehudi Menuhin, Paul Muni, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Prof. Howard Shapley, Dr. Harry F. Ward, Dr. Max Yergan and H.G. Wells, are urged to provide themselves with the dramatic campaign materials issued by the Mission from the United American Spanish Aid Committee, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

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