

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

Hon. VITO MARCANTONIO, President

ANNA LAMON, Secretary

• National Office: 112 E. 19th St., New York City

LOUIS COLMAN, Assistant Secretary

S. SMALL, Director, Publicity and Publications

357

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 15, 1940

SECOND OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM TRIAL SET FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 18

Five of Twelve Defendants Now Out on Bail

The second trial in the Oklahoma Criminal Syndicalism Cases is set for Monday November 18, in Oklahoma City before Judge Ben Arnold, it was announced by the I. L. D. last week, in an urgent appeal for defense funds to meet the mounting costs of financing the defense of the Bill of Rights in Oklahoma.

"Alan Shaw, who celebrated his 22nd birthday in an Oklahoma prison cell on November 13, is the second of the 12 criminal syndicalism victims to face trial in Oklahoma," the I. L. D. announcement stated. "The prosecution is thus far determined to rush his case to court on the second of two counts of criminal syndicalism on which six of the 12 are held. This count consists of membership in the Communist Party. The prosecution has announced it will use largely the same evidence as it presented against Robert Wood, who was sentenced to 10 years and \$5,000 fine for criminal syndicalism on October 11. This evidence is a collection of printed material illegally seized on August 17. It was used to find Mr. Wood guilty of possession for distribution of literature though actual distribution was neither proven nor charged. It will now be used to prove that membership in the Communist Party constitutes criminal syndicalism."

Since the Wood verdict on October 11, five of the defendants have been freed on bail raised largely through the efforts of the I. L. D. in New York and Chicago. The total bail put up was \$46,500. Herbert Brausch, the last to be released on bail to date, was freed on bond reduced from \$20,000 to \$2,500 by defense efforts.

"Every necessary step is being taken," the I. L. D. further stated, "to secure the release on bail of the four Oklahoma prisoners still in jail. These are Mrs. Ina Wood, Alan Shaw and Eli Jaffe still held in \$20,000 each and Mr. John Whidden.

"As was done in the cases of the five released thus far, action for reduction setting and securing of bail is taken in each case separately. We hope before the Shaw trial opens to be able to report progress toward our goal of having all defendants free on bail during the fight for their complete and unconditional freedom.

"Expenses in the Oklahoma cases mount steadily. The transcript of the Wood case alone was 738 pages of typewritten testimony. The records and briefs for the Wood case appeal to the Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals are now in preparation. Printing costs will be very high. Constant wires and telephone calls between Oklahoma, New York City and Chicago, add up to large sums. Expenses in connection with transactions in making bail add up. It is therefore clear that there is a greater need for defense funds than ever before in the Oklahoma cases, and that these funds should be sent as quickly as possible to the International Labor Defense, 112 East 19th Street, New York City."