

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ROBERT WOOD'S BAIL REDUCED TO \$15,000 IN OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM CASES

One of the Three Women Prisoners in Cases Already Out on Bond

Two victories were scored by the defense in the Oklahoma criminal syndicalism cases on November 1, when Robert Wood's bail was reduced to \$15,000 and a stay in the execution of the sentence of 10 years and \$5,000 fine meted to him was won, it was announced by the International Labor Defense last week.

Wood was formally sentenced by Judge Ben Arnold on November 1, but upon defense motions, a delay of ten days was granted before his transfer to the state penitentiary at McAlester. Though all defense motions for a new trial and quashing the verdict were overruled, Wood's bail was reduced from \$20,000 to \$15,000.

Through efforts of the International Labor Defense in New York and Chicago, full bond had been arranged through the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company in Chicago, a contract signed, fee accepted, all details completed so that Wood could be bailed out simultaneously with his formal sentence. At the last moment the company failed to live up to its contract and refused to provide the bond in the Wood case.

"Fortunately we have won a 10 day delay in the Wood case," the I. L. D. statement pointed out, "and every effort will be made to secure the reduced bail of \$15,000 by early next week so that he will be out before the time set for his transfer to the state penitentiary is reached."

The second victory in the Oklahoma defense announced by the I. L. D. is the release on \$20,000 bail of one of the three women prisoners in the criminal syndicalism cases, Miss Elizabeth Zelney Green whose bond was arranged by friends. Immediately after her release on Friday, November 1, Miss Green at once took her place with defense forces working in behalf of the victims still in jail.

The International Labor Defense stated that it is hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, held in \$2,000 bail each will be the next in order to be bailed out. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have been in jail since August 17, when their home was raided and together with their 17 year old son, Orval, they were thrown into prison.

An urgent appeal for defense funds was contained in the I. L. D. statement on the victories to date. The appeal stressed the fact that large sums of money will be needed at a moment's notice during all the next week to meet the cost of the records, bonds, etc. All contributions should be rushed directly to the I. L. D. at 112 East 19th Street in New York City.

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OKLAHOMA COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES ESTABLISHED IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Sponsored by Educators, Churchmen, Civic Leaders from Entire State

An Oklahoma Committee on Constitutional Liberties sponsored by leading educators, churchmen, civic leaders from the entire State of Oklahoma, will be formally set up at a conference in Oklahoma City on November 8, it was announced by the International Labor Defense last week in a statement hailing the establishment of this body as "a great gain for the forces of progress and democracy throughout the nation."

The conference call signed by the Rev. Paul S. Wright, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma, who is temporary chairman of the Committee was sponsored by Dr. Charles M. Perry and Dr. J. Rud Nielson, the heads of the philosophy and physics departments of Oklahoma University; Dean Nick Comfort

of the School of Religion; Rev. O. A. Pankey and Rev. Harry Carr, Methodist ministers from Tulsa, Oklahoma; Tom Cheek, president of the Farmers Union of the State of Oklahoma; Miss Vilona Cutler, the general executive secretary of the Y. W. C. A.; Reuben Martin of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; Roscoe Dunjee, editor of the Black Dispatch and many others.

In a rousing call to all progressive organizations and individuals in the state of Oklahoma, the committee's statement urges that:

"In view of the constant need of defending our traditional and constitutional rights, and especially in these days of national and international crisis with multiplied threats of suppression of free speech and the free assemblage of minority groups;

"And in view of the current violation of these rights in Oklahoma (as illustrated in the cases of Jehovah's Witnesses, in the criminal syndicalism cases, and in the summary dismissal of Streeter Stuart because he exercised his democratic rights as a citizen to petition his congressional representative);

"And in view of the obvious fact that this trend, if unchallenged and unstemmed, will shortly follow the pattern of the death of democracy in other countries and will include not only suppression of minority rights but also attacks upon labor, farm, business and fraternal organizations; restriction of academic freedom and religious freedom; racial discrimination, and the serious abrogation of the rights of citizenship;

"We, the citizens of Oklahoma, believe it is most urgent that all individuals and groups who support the American tradition of constitutional cooperate to defend and to extend those liberties in the critical period of history."