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ELI JAFFEE GETS TEN YEARS

The sentence of Eli Jaffee, third of the 12 Oklahoma criminal syndicalism defendants to be tried, to 10 years and \$5,000 fine for "membership in the Communist Party," will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court if necessary along with the Wood and Shaw cases, it was announced last week by the International Labor Defense in an emergency appeal for defense funds to continue the battle for freedom and civil rights in Oklahoma.

"Eli Jaffee, was found 'guilty' of something he had never denied, membership in the Communist Party, and given 10 years and \$5,000 fine by a jury half of which belongs to an organization openly dedicated to fighting Communism," the I.L. D. appeal for support pointed out. "As in the case of Alan Shaw, tried and sentenced in the same court on the same grounds last December, the prosecution asked, and the jury found, that mere membership in a minority political party constituted violation of the state's criminal syndicalism law.

"Jaffee is the third of the 12 defendants in the Oklahoma case to be tried. All three have received the same sentence - 10 YEARS AND \$5,000 FINE.

"When the I.L.D. entered the Oklahoma case, it pledged to all the defendants that the fight in their behalf would end only with their complete unconditional freedom and that the battle would be carried to the United States Supreme Court if necessary until that freedom was won.

"The I.L.D. made that pledge confident of the support it would receive from all true friends of justice and democracy in the United States. Its first pledge to the victims was to secure their release on bail. This pledge was fulfilled 100 percent. All of them were out on drastically reduced bail by Christmas, 1940.

"The I.L.D.'s second pledge was the assurance of the best available legal defense. This pledge too has been fulfilled in spite of the greatest difficulties. Lawyers were sent in from Chicago and from New York to cooperate with Mr. George Croom and Mr. Stanley J. Belden of Oklahoma who have rendered excellent service to the defense since the case began in August, 1940.

"We are now faced with 10 more trials and with three appeals. Conservative estimates have placed the cost per trial and appeal at \$1,500 each. This does not include attorneys' fees since all attorneys retained by the I.L.D. are contributing their excellent services. But court costs, transportation to and from Oklahoma, securing and printing of briefs, etc., runs to staggering figures.

"Mr. Samuel A. Neuburger, chairman of the I.L.D. Legal Staff who participated in Jaffee's trial reported that the prosecutor's summation lasted seven and a half hours. The transcript of that speech alone - essential to preparation of the appeal - will come to at least \$200.

"To all those who are outraged by the vicious sentences meted out to Jaffee, Shaw and Wood, who are indignant over the threat that faces the 9 remaining defendants in these cases, the I.L.D. makes an emergency appeal for immediate financial assistance to the defense. All contributions should be rushed to I.L.D. headquarters at 112 East 19 Street in New York City. Confident that this appeal will meet with generous response, the I.L.D. reaffirms its announcement that the Oklahoma cases will be fought to a victorious conclusion - freedom for the men and women involved and restoration of the Bill of Rights in Oklahoma."