

William Dudley Pelley Given 15-Year Term for Sedition

Silver Shirt Leader Denied New Trial At Indianapolis

By the Associated Press.

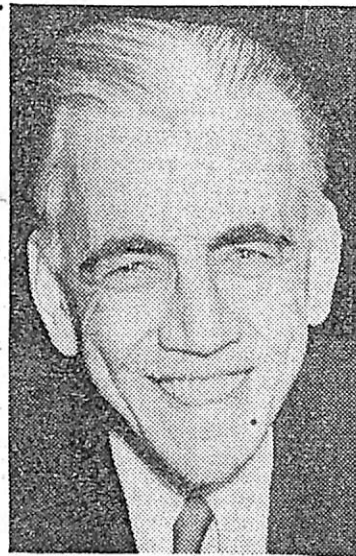
INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 12.—William Dudley Pelley, founder and leader of the Silver Shirts of America, was sentenced today to 15 years in prison in the first major sedition case since America's entry into the war.

Federal Judge Robert C. Baltzell imposed the sentence after denying a defense motion for a new trial.

The dapper, 52-year-old Pelley, whom Government attorneys called "a Benedict Arnold" and "an Aaron Burr" in their prosecution, was convicted a week ago of 11 counts of criminal sedition in connection with publications of the Fellowship Press, Inc., which he headed.

In passing sentence, Judge Baltzell said he believed Pelley should be imprisoned "for the duration."

Pelley could have been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and fined \$10,000 on each count of the indict-



WILLIAM D. PELLEY.

ment under the Espionage Act of 1917.

But Judge Baltzell said he pre-

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ferred "to consider it one offense." No fine was imposed.

Lawrence A. Brown, associated with Pelley in the Fellowship Press and convicted with him, received a five-year sentence.

Miss Agnes Marian Henderson, Pelley's secretary for several years and the third person convicted in the case, was given a two-year suspended sentence.

Miss Henderson, who wept through the proceeding, was asked by Judge Baltzell if she could "re-adjust" her life "and get away from this organization."

Warns Miss Henderson.

"If you don't feel that you can, we might as well impose the sentence right now," added the judge.

Miss Henderson finally regained composure and sobbed to Floyd G. Christian, defense attorney, that she could. Mr. Christian relayed her decision to the court and Judge Baltzell pronounced the two-year sentence, suspending it for five years.

"If you violate the suspended sentence," Judge Baltzell told her, "the judgment can be withdrawn and a new sentence imposed. If you violate this, I'm going to make it five years."

The Fellowship Press, also convicted, was fined \$5,000.