

Two Obstructionists Convicted for Sedition

By the Associated Press

Los Angeles, July 11.—Robert Noble and Ellis O. Jones, leading figures in the so-called Friends of Progress organization, were convicted of sedition charges late today by a Federal Court jury.

The verdict climaxed a lengthy trial highlighted by a mass of testimony accusing the two—Noble, professed admirer of Hitler, and Jones, a die-hard isolationist—of repeated statements ridiculing President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and other high Allied officials and United Nations war objectives.

Federal Judge Ralph E. Jenney said he would sentence the two July 20. They are liable to fines of \$10,000 each and 20 years imprisonment, or both.

The defendants contended they merely exercised the right of free speech.

In his instructions to the jury yesterday, however, Judge Jenney asserted:

"Freedom of expression is not a freedom to do wrong with impunity and it does not imply the right to frustrate or defeat the discharge of governmental duties during wartime, upon the performance of which the actual freedom of all of us may possibly depend."

Noble, main target of the Government prosecution, was accused by Leo Silverstein, assistant United States attorney, of having tried "in his small way to throw a monkey wrench into the military effort" of

the United States.

At the time of his arrest last spring Noble boasted to interview-

ers that he had carefully studied the country's sedition laws. He The trial lasted two months.