

ELEVEN FREED FOR PICKETING SILVER SHIRTS

Prosecutor Balks When Support Grows for Demonstrators

SPOKANE, July 31.—Charges against 11 members and friends of the Spokane branch of the American League for Peace and Democracy, arraigned for picketing a fascist Silver Shirt meeting June 18, were dismissed here yesterday.

The dismissal suggestion came from City Prosecutor Arthur L. Hooper, who declined to prosecute.

The dismissal came after an extended campaign by the organization to insure the freedom to picket in Spokane. The pickets, representing the Workers Alliance, the League, trade unions and the Communist Party, had protested the appearance of Roy Zachary, field organizer for the Silver Shirts, who called for the assassination of President Roosevelt in a recent Chicago meeting of the organization.

Pickets were held first "under investigation" and were later charged with disorderly conduct. Those arrested were: Jim Haggin, Caroline Haggin, Barbara Hartle, Frank Haggin, Margaret Weaver, Clark Johnson, George Curbow, Ray Wildman, James van Orman, Ruth van Orman and Oliver J. Fiske.

Meeting Called

A League meeting was called July 25 to hear the arrested pickets and leading Spokane progressives who spoke in their behalf.

Declared Miss Weaver, one of those arrested, who was visiting her family at the time of the picketing: "We, the eleven members and friends of the American League for Peace and Democracy who were arrested while protesting a meeting of the Pelley Silver Shirts, rejoice over the dismissal of charges against us. We most heartily agree with the action of the city in dismissing the case as one of false arrest."

Free Speech Battleground

"We feel that it is very important that the people of Spokane become fully acquainted with the menacing nature of this fascist organization which tries to rouse racial and religious prejudices against Catholic, Jewish, Negro and other minority groups, in an attempt to misguide the economic unrest of the people into channels of a fascist dictatorship."

Spokane will be remembered as the city in which some of the most militant and famed "free speech fights" were carried out early in the 20s under the leadership of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Attorney Ben Kizer represented the League in police court hearings.