

'Expert' On IWW Tells All

SAN FRANCISCO — Final witness for the prosecution against Harry Bridges was an expert on the IWW—Algia E. Reese of Eureka, California.

Reese said he joined the IWW in 1918 and "just stopped paying dues" in 1920—which, incidentally, was before Bridges even came to this country.

The witness showed his authority immediately:

Q. Did you ever attend a convention of the IWW?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever attend any important conclave or gathering of the leaders of the IWW?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever hold an office in the IWW?

A. Well, I was local secretary at one time.

Q. Did you ever hold an office?

A. No, sir. I identified some IWW pamphlets.

Q. You mean that some of these pamphlets and other publications could be found in any ordinary book store or public library?

A. I wouldn't say as to that.

Q. You don't know?

A. No.

Q. Isn't it true that the IWW, during the time that you were in it, believed in not having central body exercising control over its members, but on the contrary, allowing all members to express any viewpoint they liked through

publications of the IWW publishing bureau?

A. I have no knowledge.

Q. Do you know the theory of the IWW while you were in it on the question of control or discipline of members?

A. I could not say.

Q. Mr. Reese, isn't it a fact that during the world war the central executive board of the IWW passed an official resolution disavowing sabotage and damage to property?

A. I have no knowledge.

The witness was questioned about his interviews with the FBI. He said the agents showed him an IWW song book.

Q. And what did they say then?

A. I think he sang a song.

Q. Who sang a song?

A. (No response.)

Q. Who sang a song, Mr. Reese?

A. I did.

A. Yes. . . .

Q. What happened after you sang the song?

A. It didn't happen.

Q. What didn't happen?

A. What happened.

Q. You mean you didn't sing a song at all, is that it?

CHIEF PROSECUTOR: I object to that line of questioning! Anything may have happened!