HONOR HAYMARK VICTIMS ON CAPITOL

Nailed on the steps of the Senate, or riding in a horse-drawn hearse as it made its way to a solemn funeral service, the coffins of the eight men were brought to the nation’s capital to pay them their last respects. They were the victims of a ruthless vigilante mob who had stormed through the streets of Chicago, murdering in cold blood the leaders of the radical labor movement.

The circumstances of their arrest and trial remain clouded by mystery and controversy. It is believed that the men were arrested on the basis of false charges and accusations. Their trial was a sham, and the verdicts handed down were nullified by the subsequent revelations of police corruption.

The defendants, all members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) or the Wobblies, were sentenced to death by hanging. The executions took place on November 11, 1917, after the defendants had already spent over a year in jail without trial. The Chicago Haymarket Massacre was a major turning point in the history of labor activism in the United States.

The trial and execution of the Haymarket defendants were emblematic of the climate of fear and repression that characterized the era of Progressive Era reform. The government and the courts used the case as a tool to silence radical voices and to stifle worker organizing.

In a statement in The Daily Worker, a socialist newspaper of the time, an editor wrote:

"Our Paper, Joe"

"Our Paper, Joe." The name was a reference to "Joe Hill," the famous labor organizer and singer who had been killed by a firing squad in Utah in 1915. The statement expressed solidarity with the defendants and denounced the trials and executions as a surely baseless attempt to silence the voices of the working class.

Reading Socialist Admits He Favors Arme...