

EXPOSE VERDICT BY STEEL TRUST JURY AND COURT

Show How Ohio Three Were Railroaded

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio, Nov. 25.—How a jury, handpicked by the representatives of the open shop steel and coal bosses, railroaded three members of the Communist Party, Tom Johnson, Charles Guynn and Lil Andrews, to a possible 10 years in prison on charges underhanded means used to accomplish the class-sentence, are now revealed by the International Labor Defense district secretary for Ohio and West Virginia.

The steel trust hired a special assistant prosecutor for the trial of the three Communists. Hand-picked by the steel trust, the jury consisted of storekeepers and farmers. One juror, challenged by the defense, admitted he was a member of the American Legion and the defense forced his removal.

The only witnesses against the three workers were five police officers and deputy sheriffs. The chief of police stated that the very fact that the Communist Party was conducting the meeting at which the workers were arrested on International Red Day, August 1, was sufficient basis for arrest.

The address of Prosecutor McKelvey to the hand-picked jury was the extreme limit of hatred against militant workers, an incitement to lynching. McKelvey boasted of his membership in the American Legion. He called for the deportation of the defendants.

The assistant prosecutor, specially hired for the occasion, shouted and screamed and often became breathless, in his rabid attack on the Communist Party, calling for everything from the maximum sentence and deportation to a mass attack by the American Legion and all "red-blooded Americans" on the Party headquarters in Cleveland.

He opened his speech by praying to "God to help me and give me strength to say what I want to say," and to prove to the court how "terrible" the defendants really were, trying to cause riot and bloodshed in peaceful Martins Ferry." He called the three workers "bastard spawn of anarchy which should be removed for all times from this grand and glorious country."

After these tirades of hatred for militant labor it took the jury, with its mind made up before it retired, but 11 minutes to return its verdict of guilty.

A motion for a new trial was made by the defense, which the judge will rule on at a later date.

The defendants, on the stand, fearlessly declared that they would go on fighting, with the Communist Party, against the steel and coal bosses exploiting the workers.