

CIVIL LIBERTIES

MAN AIDS LEGION

New York Office Mum on the Matter

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 11.—Hastening to the support of the fascist American Legion here, Robert Keebler, local representative of the Civil Liberties Union gave his official approval to the arrest and holding of Tom Johnson, Prof. and Mrs. Davis for holding an open-air meeting.

"I have your wire of June 7, and in reply I beg to advise you that the American Legion has saved the night. God save the king. All is quiet along the Mississippi."

Thus the local upholder of the "sanctity of constitutional rights" wired in reply to the New York office demands to not allow "civil liberties" to be trampled on so crudely.

Then with a sigh of relief and a great service rendered (to the bosses) the local light of civil liberties grows indignant at the very idea of Communists daring to organize Negro and white workers.

"Our" bourbon lawyer goes on to tell of his part in the arrests. "Under the circumstances the police commissioner did precisely what I would have done. I advised Prof. Davis by telephone that he had no right to hold the street meeting in violation of public authority."

Commissioner Davis stated that his choicest coterie of dicks will escort Tom Johnson to the train, and said that with such backing as he has received (American Legion, Civil Liberties), he intended to investigate "the operations of any Communistic or radical movements."

Joe Norvell, the fourth organizer to be arrested, has been re-arrested and efforts are being made to deport him.

Inquiries made today at the New York office of the Civil Liberties Union elicited the reply that the matter was under advisement and that they had no statement to make at the moment.