

FAYETTE COUNTY POLICE TRY TO FRAMEUP PAPCUN

Dick Cites Long Speech from "Memory"

By A Worker Correspondent

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 2—The preliminary hearing following the arrest of George Papcun before squire, Charles McComb of New Salem, showed more clearly than ever the real cause that led up to the arrest. The charge is violation of the notorious Pennsylvania state sedition law and is based on "speeches delivered on Jan. 24 and during the last two years." It was brot out that the state police, a servile tool of the coal barons and steel magnates, were watching Papcun's activities during the last miners' strike in Republic and were ready to place him under arrest at that time.

Some Memory!

One of the "dicks" who made the arrest produced a written copy of what was supposed to be Papcun's speech. Under cross examination this guardian of law—a husky but stupid-looking fellow—admitted that there was no stenographer in the hall when the speech was delivered, but that he had copied it from memory, word for word, after the arrest was made.

The speaker, according to the state police, caused discontent among the workers by telling them that they are getting low wages and telling them that they should join the United Mine Workers and "should get together and organize so that this imperialism capital may be overthrown."

Cites Another "Crime."

Another "crime" with which the defendant is charged is that he called upon the Negro workers to organize together with the whites, as they are "just as good" as the white workers.

The motion made by the attorney for defense to dismiss the case was denied by the squire and the case was referred to a jury for trial who set bail at \$2,000 which was furnished.

The squire, a real estate and insurance agent, is known to be one of the staunchest supporters of the coal barons and is working hand in hand with the strikebreaking state police. This is why Papcun was taken to New Salem, which is about an hour's ride from Republic where the arrest took place. The agents of the coal operators knew that the charges were flimsy and did not want to take any chances with the squire of Republic, who is located about two minutes' walk from the hall where the speech was made.

Hold Protest Meetings.

The Workers Party is planning to hold a series of mass meetings in the coke region as a protest against the arrest of Papcun and to test the right of free speech in the kingdom of the coal operators. The defense is handled by the International Labor Defense.