

PAPCUN TRIAL OPENS TAKING OF TESTIMONY

Penna. Cossacks Testify Against Union Miner

UNIONTOWN, Pa., July 1.—The jury that is to try George Papcun under the criminal syndicalist law of Pennsylvania was completed this morning and the state began to present its case against the young union mine worker, the offense being based on his attempt to organize coal miners into the United Mine Workers of America.

Of the eight veniremen examined, the defense challenged two and the state three, the three finally selected being Mary Ralston, a housewife; L. V. Lepty, ticket agent of the Baltimore and Ohio railway; and E. E. Williams, a farmer.

Union Breaking Police on Stand.

District Attorney Brown opened the case by reading the indictment. The first three witnesses for the state were all state troopers—the notorious coal and iron police. These were subjected to telling cross-examination by the defense and their conflicting testimony shown up.

The testimony by the prosecution was directed to showing that Papcun was active in the Republic miners' strike, trying to organize them into the U. M. W. of A., urging the miners to strike and fight for higher wages.

Testimony Needs Corrections.

The first witness was State Police Onko, who had to be recalled to the witness stand several times to make "corrections," after conferences with Assistant Prosecutor Newell.

The third witness was State Trooper William J. White, who arrested Papcun on January 24. White created a sensation when he began to give testimony from previously prepared notes. Defense counsel objected but was overruled by the judge.

Under cross-examination White was compelled to admit that the major part of his notes as to what Papcun had said before arrest, were prepared at police headquarters after Papcun was arrested. White contended that he had heard Papcun's speech, altho he admitted that he was standing outside the hall and the windows and doors were closed.

White caused general laughter when he stated that Papcun had said: "We will send a delegation to Russia to organize the workers there" and that—"We will have to bust this imperialized capital and bust it right."

Various copies of labor papers, including The DAILY WORKER were introduced by the state.

It is expected that Bust Ledger, who was exposed as a spy on the strike committee, will testify for the prosecution tomorrow.