

STEEL COMPANY COURT DECLARES PAPCUN GUILTY

Convicted of Sedition on Six Counts

(Special to The Daily Worker)

UNIONTOWN, Pa., June 6.—George Papcun, district organizer of the Young Workers' League, was found guilty of violating the Anti-Sedition act by the jury today on six counts. He was found not guilty on the charge of membership in or organizing of the Workers Party. The jury was out for more than 16 hours and finally returned with its verdict.

Attorney I. E. Ferguson made a motion for a new trial which will be argued in September, and Papcun was released in the meantime on bail of \$7,500.

Troopers Intimidate.

Papcun was arrested for speaking to miners on Lenin Memorial day at Republic, Pennsylvania, after attempts were made by state troopers to intimidate him. Papcun had been speaking in the coke regions quite a number of times, especially during strike periods when he urged the miners who went out for better conditions to stand firm and not to permit the operators to divide them because of differences in color or creed.

Because of his activity in the coke region, union and nonunion, Papcun incurred the enmity of the coal operators and the steel trust which controls many of the mining properties. The meeting in Republic was used as the excuse for arresting him and attempting to railroad him to the penitentiary.

Hand of Trust.

The trial itself was an indication of the influence which the steel trust exercises thruout the western part of the state. Troopers, the state cossacks, bootleggers, spies in unions whom Papcun had helped to expose, crooked officials, a well-oiled legal machine and local politicians combined to "send up" Papcun. The fact that no overt act was committed, and practically none was charged against Papcun, does not seem to have swayed the jury very much. Papcun was indicted and convicted for

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opinions, "seditious utterances," under the infamous Pennsylvania Anti-Sedition act, which has been met with universal condemnation and opposition from the organized labor movement of the state.

Follows Other Convictions.

The conviction of Papcun follows closely after a similar conviction in the cases of the Pittsburgh Communists, headed by Edward Horacek. All of these cases were defended by International Labor Defense which initiated the conference held a short time ago, in which organized labor expressed its determination to proceed in an organized manner against the anti-labor Anti-Sedition act.

Altho the Horacek conviction was based on mere membership in the Workers Party, and Papcun was found not guilty on that charge, the appeal in the Horacek case will to a certain extent influence the final disposition of the Papcun case.

Opposition to the rough-shod domination of the steel trust in Western Pennsylvania is growing stronger here and the right of free speech will be fought out to the finish.