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# Revive Bridgman Case, Try to Jail Communist Workers

Unsigned report in *The Daily Worker* [New York], v. 8, no. 75 (March 27, 1931), pg. 1.

DETROIT, Mich., March 26.— Judge White granted the prosecution's motion in the Bridgman case for an immediate trial and setting aside a former court order for separate trials for the 27 indicted workers arrested in 1922 by operatives of the Department of Justice when they swooped down upon the convention of the Communist Party in Michigan.

In a statement issued by the International Labor Defense it is pointed out that "this is a direct attack at this time of attack of the boss class upon the foreign-born and Negro masses to cripple the entire militant working class movement in the United States by imprisoning the leaders of the Communist Party, which includes William Z. Foster, Earl Browder, Max Bedacht, William F. Dunne, Ella Reeves Bloor, Robert Minor, Rose Pastor Stokes, and 20 others."

The charge against the Communist leadership is assembling with a organization which taught the doctrine of criminal syndicalism and the probable sentence, if convicted, will be 10 years in the Michigan penitentiary. One of the indicted leaders is Charles E. Ruthenberg, formerly secretary of the Communist Party and dead since 1927.

William Z. Foster, Secretary of the Trade Union Unity League, was tired immediately after Ruthenberg's conviction, but the jury disagreed. Ruthenberg's conviction was appealed, but he died in 1927 and no decision was ever rendered.

The arrests in 1922 took place during a period of great unrest amongst the workers of America. Strikes were going on a large scale, including the coal miners, steel workers, and railroad men, and it was an attempt on the part of the authorities to root out the militant spirit of the workers.

In calling attention to the importance of the reopening of this case, and the new attempt to jail the Communist leadership in one sweep, the International Labor Defense calls upon all workers to "immediately rally in militant fashion to save these leaders from a long term in prison. Mass resistance and counterattack alone will save these workers' leaders and since the state permits only a few weeks time before our comrades go on trial the International Labor Defense calls for immediate action. Organize defense meetings, mass demonstrations, and fight for the immediate freeing of our militant membership.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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