

Gil GREEN

Trial of the 12 Cannot Be Won in Courtroom Alone

LEST there are those who believe that the trial of the 11 members of the national committee of the Communist Party, is going to be won solely through the battle in the court room, let me set them straight.

As these words are being written, the "trial within a trial," is still taking place. The Defense has become the Prosecution. What is on trial, is the nefarious jury system in which the rich and well-to-do are selected for jury service, while the poor, the workers and the Negro people are excluded.

The facts presented thus far are irrefutable. No one can deny them. Every jury panel analyzed shows the same conscious pattern of inclusions and exclusions. No honest, fair-minded person can come to any other conclusion than that the whole jury system has been rigged. It's the old Wall Street game of "heads I win, tails you lose," played in the highest courts of our land.



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And yet, after saying all this—that we have already proved our charge of a corrupt jury system—I repeat: **our case will not be won by what takes place in the courtroom alone. It will be won only in the higher court of public opinion, before the true jury of our peers, the American common people.**

ON THE IMMEDIATE issue of the jury system, Judge Harold Medina sits both as judge and jury. It is he who will decide whether the jury system under which we have been indicted, and under which we are to be tried, is a fair and just one.

Judge Medina is, of course, an honorable man. So is Chief Judge Knox, the father of the particular jury system employed in the Southern District of New York. And the other Federal Court Judges of this District who have helped maintain the undemocratic jury system, are also honorable men.

But does anyone believe that the honorable Judge Medina will find the honorable Judge Knox and his other honorable colleagues of the Federal Court Bench guilty of acts so dishonorable as to impugn their reputations as impartial tribunals of the people? Hardly. He has already given ample evidence of where he stands.

What matters it if justice be violated, so long as the corrupt system of jury selection, of which he is a part, is protected.

This trial can be won. The jury system can be altered. But these things are possible only if enough people learn the truth and make their voices heard.

Until then, justice will continue to be blind.