

SUIT FOR FALSE ARREST AGAINST ALIQUIPPA COPS

Postmaster Admits He Stops Daily Worker

By ABRAM JAKIRA.

PITTSBURGH, Pa.,—The attorneys for Peter Muselin of Woodlawn, Pa., who is suing the Aliquippa Chief of Police for ten thousand dollars damages for false arrest, rested their case today after a bitter legal battle which lasted several hours. Four witnesses testified for the chief of police when the court adjourned until Tuesday morning.

Chief Was Sure.

Several witnesses testified that "Ham" Brown, the Chief of Aliquippa Police raided, on the night of July 27th, 1926 a peaceful meeting of a picnic committee of the Croatian Beneficial Lodge to settle the accounts for a picnic which was held on July 25th. When he was asked for a warrant he stated: "I don't need no god-damned warrant for you." Several men were arrested and then released without even being questioned after having spent in jail for some time.

Question About Party.

Attorney W. D. Craig, who, together with attorney Richard S. Holt, represent Brown, questioned the witnesses at length as to their affiliation with the Workers (Communist) Party, and their personal beliefs on the question of the overthrow of the American government and the establishment of a Soviet form of government in the United States. Numerous objections raised by attorneys George J. Shaffer and Henry H. Wilson, who represent Peter Muselin, the plaintiff, were continually overruled by Judge Wm. A. McConnel.

Legion Communist Committee.

The arbitrary rule in Woodlawn of the Jones and Laughlin interests came to light today when Mr. Simson, the postmaster of Woodlawn, was called upon to testify for Mr. Brown. He was compelled to admit that he was a member of the American Legion and is the head of the special committee appointed by the legion to investigate and to combat Communism in Woodlawn. He was formerly an employe of Jones and Laughlin Steel corporation.

Censored the Mail.

He used his office of postmaster to further the interests of the American Legion. He had to admit that he was watching the mails coming from the Workers Party headquarters and addressed to the radical workers. He took it upon himself to stop the delivery of the issues of The DAILY WORKER (he was reading The DAILY WORKER, he testified, every day before delivering it to the subscribers) which contained the article about Queen Marie, entitled Cotzumanista. He testified that Muselin has a "bad character" and when pressed by the attorneys he was compelled to admit that this was his own opinion, as Muselin favored the Soviet form of government in the U. S.

Witness after witness testified that they lost their jobs at one time or another while working in the Jones and Laughlin steel mills just because it was discovered that they were radicals.