

POLICE DOCTORED PAPERS IN TRIAL OF 4 COMMUNISTS

Read Party Resolutions In "Sedition" Trial

By A. JAKIRA.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 24.—Steve Bratich, Tom Zina, and Milan Resitar, three of the four defendants now on trial for sedition in Beaver, were called to the stand today by the defence.

Resitar, who occupied the stand half the day, and who will be cross-examined to-morrow, testified that he is a member of the Workers (Communist) Party and explained under direct and cross examination the principles and policies of the Party.

Reads Party Resolutions.

Attorney Wilson, after vigorous objection on the part of the prosecution which were overruled by Judge McConnell, read to the jury and the packed court room, the full resolution adopted at the last convention of the Workers Party and published in pamphlet form.

That the prosecution fixed the records of the Woodlawn street nucleus which were seized during the raid of November 11th last year was charged by Resitar.

The names of three workers who have never been members of the Workers (Communist) Party were added by the police to the membership lists. The additions were made by a typewriter other from Resitar's. Other changes in the records were also pointed out.

The prosecution from the beginning of the trial referred quite frequently to a pamphlet "Blood and Steel" trying to create the impression that the pamphlet was connected with the alleged attempts to blow up the Jones and Laughlin steel mills.

This maneuver was smashed when the defence introduced the pamphlet as evidence and when Resitar pointed out that the pamphlet is a statement of the brutal conditions in the steel mills which are responsible for the preventable deaths of thousands of workers.

Karl Marx's "Communist Manifesto" was continually referred to by the prosecution to show that Communist doctrines are "seditious." Attempts were also made by the prosecution to show that the Croatian Benefit Union is a Communist organization.

Aided Russian Relief.

Muselin, Resitar and Zima are active members and officers of the Woodlawn branch of the society. Prosecuting attorney Craig charged that this society had several years ago contributed \$11,000 to "aid in the establishment of a Soviet Republic in Russia."

The defence easily proved that United States Government agencies had sent millions of dollars to the Soviet Union for the purpose as the Croatian Benefit Society—namely, for famine relief.

It was also brought out in today's session that one of the witnesses who testified that the defendants had preached "bloodshed and dynamite" was involved in a financial scandal in the Woodlawn Croatian lodge. He attempted to withdraw \$1,500 of the society's money for his own purposes without the knowledge of the membership.

Witnesses Biased.

Muselin and Zima, officers of the society, prevented the embezzlement. He then made threats that "he would get them yet."

Another witness, the defence showed, had been driven out from his house by Zima, which he had rented from Zima, because neighbors complained about his conduct. He also promised Zima that he "would get revenge."

During the day continual clashes took place between the attorney for the defence and the prosecuting attorney, the defence demanding the dismissal of the jury and a new trial. The case will probably close to-morrow.