
Judge Rules that Everything is Admissable at the Communist Trial in Michigan.

by Edgar Owens

Published in *The Worker* [New York], v. 6, whole no. 268 (March 31, 1923), pg. 1.

COURTROOM, ST. JOSEPH, MICH.— The star of the state's star witness, Federal Detective Francis Morrow, became somewhat dim when he attempted to identify the questionnaire of W.Z. Foster, defendant in the Communist trial here.

Even after admitting that Foster was 15 feet away from him and that about 20 people were between him and Foster when the latter was alleged to have been filling out the questionnaire, and that it had been deposited upon a table among 74 other and like questionnaires, Judge White allowed it to be received and read to the jury. Morrow testified that Foster was Industrial Director of the Communist Party, stating that he knew this to be a fact because it had been announced at the convention and had been previously reported through party channels. He produced a bundle of documents, one of which he handed to the prosecutor, who offered it as an exhibit.

It was at this time that he again got his wires crossed. He had testified that all party documents came through the mails. The exhibit was a bi-weekly newsletter and the paragraph which the prosecution wanted to introduce referred to Communist activity on behalf of the striking coal miners and called for maximum support on behalf of the West Virginia miners in their so-called treason trials, which followed their conflict with the coal barons. Other documents, read to the jury over the objection of Attorney Walsh, were the Communist Party program and constitution, an article from the March [1922] issue of *The Communist* entitled "Our Prisoners," and an article in the July [1922] number of *The Communist* entitled "The Vice of Purity."

The prosecutor offered the theses and statutes of the 3rd Congress of the Communist International and *The ABC of Communism* by Bukharin. Judge White has ruled these to be admissable.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.