
California Radical Leaders Reindicted:

American-born Communist Labor Party Organizers Will Be Tried for Political Activities

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pg. 3. Editor of *The Federated Press Bulletin* was Robert Morse Lovett,
Associate Editors were Carl Haessler and Carroll Binder.

OAKLAND, Cal.— The reindictment of six former members of the old Communist Labor Party of California by a grand jury here makes the opening of a statewide fight on radicalism by the Better America Federation.

This organization, with headquarters in Los Angeles, is the most notorious anti-labor group of big business men in the state. It is the driving force behind the perversion of the judiciary in this state.

In November 1919, a convention was held in this city to establish in California a branch of the Communist Labor Party. About a week later 9 men, prominent in its formation, were arrested on an indictment charging violation of the criminal syndicalism law of the state. Shortly afterwards, Charlotte Anita Whitney was arrested separately for the same offense.

Early in January 1920, Miss Whitney was tried and found guilty. The appeal has been before the appellate court over 2 years. Miss Whitney has been out on \$10,000 property bail.

Wieler in Penitentiary.

J.G. Wieler, a member of the boilermakers' union, was next tried and convicted. The appeal was decided adversely by the State Supreme Court a month ago. He is now in the state penitentiary at San Quentin.

James H. Dolsen, assistant editor, *The Rank and File* (San Francisco), who had been elected state Secretary-Treasurer of the party, was then tried. After 5 weeks his jury was unable to agree.

Nearly a month later, John C. Taylor, formerly State Secretary, Socialist Party of California, was convicted under the same indictment. He was released from San Quentin on parole several months ago, his appeal having been denied.

The 5 other defendants, J.A. Ragsdale, E.B. Smith, C.A. Tobey, J.G. Reed, and J.E. Snyder, former editor of the Socialist weekly, *The Oakland World*, had their cases postponed over 2 years at the request of the district attorney.

Amend Trial Law.

Meanwhile, at the instigation of the district attorney in Oakland, the legislature passed an amendment to the criminal procedure act under which defendants charged in an indictment with the commission of the same offense must be tried jointly.

On Feb. 21 of this year the district attorney acted under it in these cases. That pressure from the Better America Federation brought about the new indictment at this late date is certain.

A contributing factor is the coming on of the fall election. Not only is there a Governor to be elected, but in Oakland, a district attorney to succeed Ezra DeCoto, under whose direction the former trials were held.

Objections by the defendants to surrendering their right of trial separately under the old indictment were overruled. Even the fact that James H. Dolsen had already been tried under the former indictment had no effect.

The defendants will act as their own attorneys. The trial date has not yet been set. Every defendant is a native-born American, with an ancestry in this country going back many generations.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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