
C.E.R.'s Trial

[Morning Session — April 30, 1923]

by Caleb Harrison

Mimeographed press release of the Workers Party of America News Service.
Copy in Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 211, l. 100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

St. Joseph, Mich. (Wire.)- During the morning's session of the trial of C.E. Ruthenberg it seemed that the prosecution had forgotten that Ruthenberg was on trial for "assembling with" the Communist Party, for Prosecutor Smith, cross-examining Jay Lovestone, devoted his energies to questioning having no relation to the point at issue in the trial. Smith was particularly insistent upon finding out the relations of the Communist Party with the Federated Press, trying to create the impression that the Communists controlled this press service.

In spite of Smith's badgering of Lovestone and continual insinuation, the latter consistently maintained the position that the only money that had ever gone to the Federated Press from Communist sources was payment for news service rendered to the Communist papers, payments made in the same manner in which other labor papers paid for this service.

Asked about Communist control, Lovestone answered that the Communists tried to influence the Federated Press in the same manner that its members holding influential positions, but that it never had the control of the Federated Press, simply sending its representatives as other papers did. The prosecutor then wanted to know where the Communist literature was printed. Lovestone stated this was not a matter which was in his charge, and only the person in charge knew what printing plant had done the Communist work.

The next effort of Prosecutor Smith was to show that the Workers Party had been formed on the basis of instructions from the Communist International. Lovestone answered, in spite of all efforts to make him say something different, that the call for the convention for the organization of the Workers Party had been issued long before any instructions had been received, and that the advice received from the Communist International had merely

confirmed action already taken by the Central Executive Committee of the Party.

The prosecution thereupon introduced the letter from the Communist International to the Communist Party of America, urging the organization of an open political party, and at the time of the noon recess was reading to the jury the recommendations of the Communist International that the Communists of the United States carry on campaigns for various constitutional amendments, the soldiers' bonus, loans to the farmers holding less than \$20,000 worth of property, help for the unemployed, and similar measures of relief for workers and farmers.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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