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## Venue Change Denied Foster: Trial Will be Started Here and Attempt Made to Get Jury.

Unsigned news report in the *St. Joseph Herald-Press*, March 10, 1923, pg. 1.

Judge Charles B. White today denied William Z. Foster a change of venue to some other county in Michigan.

Foster is scheduled to go on trial here Monday morning [March 12], charged with violating the Michigan syndicalism act. He was arrested following the raid on a secret convention of the Communist Party of America at Bridgman last August.

The plea that a change of venue be granted will be denied for the moment, and an attempt made to secure a jury here, the court ruled.

### Quash Three Counts.

The first three counts of the indictment under which William Z. Foster was arrested were also quashed in an opinion handed down by Judge White. These counts charged Foster with spreading propaganda of a violent nature.

Foster will go to trial merely on the fourth count, which charges that Foster met at Bridgman with the Communist Party of America, an unlawful organization created for the purpose of advocating doctrines of criminal syndicalism.

The defense had asked that the entire indictment be quashed.

### Denied New Bill.

The court also denied the plea of the defense that the prosecution be compelled to furnish a further bill of particulars. Judge White, however, ruled that the state must confine themselves wholly to the items set forth in the bill of particulars and gave the prosecution until 3 o'clock this afternoon to amend their bill to include other documentary evidence they desire to introduce.

Attorneys Frank P. Walsh, defense counsel, and O.L. Smith, for the state, engaged in considerable argument over the plea for a further bill of particulars.

Foster wants to know just what they are going to say about him when he goes to trial, was the way Walsh presented his side of the case, adding that the syndicalism statute was so sweeping that on one could tell just what the defense was to be confronted with.

The state objected strenuously over limiting in the bill of particulars the shorthand notes of the proceedings of the convention.

If it was the intention of the state to mystify the defense, it could not have been better done than in the bill of particulars furnished, declared Mr. Walsh.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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