

IN MASSACHUSETTS

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THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

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NEW YORK, NY 10025

JUNE SCHEDULE

JUNE 8 PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE 36 GOTHIC STREET NORTHAMPTON-7PM	SEDITION COMMITTEE / NORTHAMPTON
JUNE 26 269 SOUTH STREET NORTHAMPTON 6-9PM	WORKDAY / POTLUCK SUPPER
JUNE 30 URBAN LEAGUE 756 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD-7PM	SEDITION COMMITTEE SPRINGFIELD OPEN MEETING

JURY SELECTION

Who Can Afford to Serve on a Jury for 1 Year?

The process of jury selection for the trial of the OHIO 7 is entering its second month. The amount of negative pretrial publicity, the unprecedented security measures, the presence of large numbers of Federal marshalls in Springfield, and the fact that the trial is expected to last 1 year have complicated the process. In Springfield, the names of potential jurors come from lists of registered voters in Hampshire, Hamden, Berkshire and Franklin counties. In the first group of 90 candidates for the jury, none have been Black, Latino or Asian. The judge will need to find 12 jurors and 8 alternates. At the current rate, jury selection will last all summer.

Potential jurors are given a questionnaire by the judge which asks them about their lives, occupation and work history, whether they knew about the case from the news and whether they feel able to be unbiased. Jurors are brought into court and questioned by the judge based on concerns voiced by the defense and prosecution. A particular concern of Judge Young is the expected length of the trial. Recently a mistrial was declared in this same district because the jurors were misled about the length of the trial, and refused to continue.

All candidates for the jury are guaranteed their jobs back at the end of jury service. However, there is no law which guarantees continued salary. Many large corporations and federal agencies have provisions in their contracts for payment of salaries during jury

service. This of course tilts the available jurors even more to those who can afford to serve on such a long trial. Jurors are paid \$30.00 a day for serving by the government, but with only 12 trial days a month, the maximum is \$360.00 a month. Economic hardship and difficulty with the traveling have excused a number of jurors. A large number of people have been dismissed as unable to be open minded about these political charges because of the extensive prejudicial publicity.

The defense has challenged the manner in which the jury pool is selected citing undisputed statistical data which confirms the underrepresentation of Black and Latino people. While acknowledging that such racism exists, the judge had denied the OHIO 7's request to have the jury pool supplemented from drivers license lists and from those unemployed and on welfare. Springfield in Western Massachusetts was the focus of BOSLUC and Western Sweep operations in 1982 and 1984 which targetted the OHIO 7 and other political fugitives. The government has brought forum shopping to new heights by bringing the Sedition trial of the OHIO 7 to Springfield where the vast majority of potential jurors have already reached their conclusion.

VICTORY:

Filiberto Ojeda Rios is Released on Bail!

On Friday, May 12, 1988 over 100 supporters of the Puerto Rican/Hartford 15 demonstrated outside the 2nd Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in New York City to protest the continued incarceration of Filiberto Ojeda Rios. After the demonstration, they filled the courtroom as Ojeda's lawyer challenged the 32 month detention - the longest pre-trial detention in US history under preventive detention. The court announced that Filiberto Ojeda Rios had won the right to bail.

On Friday, May 20, 1988 Ojeda was released on bail of 1 million dollars. While Filiberto has to wear a 24 hour monitoring bracelet and cannot leave Hartford, his release is a tremendous victory and testament to the growing support for the Puerto Rican/Hartford 15.

In Hartford, the trial is still in pretrial stages as the defense continues to challenge the illegally gathered 'evidence' introduced by the government. Jury selection will begin the first week of September in Hartford.

VIGIL

26 people came to the gate of FDC Hartford Sunday May 22, to show solidarity with the OHIO 7 and other political prisoners. Despite the steady rain and intrusive videotaping by the Federal Marshalls Service, spirits were high. The vigil, cosponsored by THE SEDITION COMMITTEE and the Connecticut Committee Against Repression, was carried on the evening news by Channel 30 in Hartford and attracted several news reporters. A highlight of this demonstration was the presence of two supporters from Ray Levasseur's hometown in Maine. They had recently traveled to Cuba with a Venceremos Brigade and had talked of the OHIO 7 with Assata Shakur, and had brought a signed photo from her to Ray and Pat Levasseur.

COMING NEXT MONTH. Proposal for AMNESTY for political prisoners in the United States

Details on the indictment of 7 comrades from the North American Anti-imperialist movement in Washington D.C. on charges of bombing the US Capitol and other war bases of US and Israeli governments.

AVAILABLE FROM THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

*** NEW! ***

THE WOMEN OF THE OHIO 7

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P.O. Box 4690
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