

Proto View (formerly Book News)

Socialism on Trial: Testimony at Minneapolis Sedition Trial, 6th Edition

James P. Cannon

Testimony at Minneapolis Sedition Trial

Pathfinder Press, ©2014

292 p., no HX89 978-1-60488-064-9 monograph Paper

This book, first published in 1942, centers around testimony from the 1941 trial of leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Upper Midwest labor movement. They had organized labor opposition to the federal government's entry into World War II. The lead defendant was James P. Cannon, national secretary of the SWP, whose full trial testimony is included. At trial, Cannon and 17 others were convicted of "seditious conspiracy" under the Smith Act, which President Roosevelt had signed into law in 1940. That law forbade teaching, advocating or encouraging revolutionary ideas. In his testimony, Cannon presented a full and eloquent description of the aim and program of the communists. In addition to Cannon's testimony, there is a criticism of the strategy Cannon used in defending himself in court by an exiled ultraleft Spanish communist, Grandizo Munis, and Cannon's response. *Annotation ©2015 Ringgold Inc. Portland, OR (protoview.com)*