
A Social Rat's End: Coward and Squealer Begs for Mercy from a Capitalist Judge — Max Cohen and his Final Groan

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Maximilian Cohen, secretary of the Left Wing before the red raids and a prime mover in the developments that led up to the Communist Party, which advocated the overthrow of the United States government as a capitalist institution, and who was indicted along with Benjamin Gitlow and others for criminal anarchy, surrendered himself at the office of District Attorney Blanton today.

Renouncing all his radical connections, Cohen pleaded with Justice Wasservogel for clemency. He was placed on probation for five years.

The indictment against Cohen, Gitlow, and Larking, the latter now serving five years in the Great Meadow Prison, Comstock, was returned on November 29, 1919. since that time Cohen has been a fugitive technically. He fled into Mexico and, according to his counsel, Samuel Ecker, "led the life of a wild animal."

Ecker said his client recanted every radical belief he ever had. He was "through" with anarchy. All he asked was that he be given a chance to prove to the court he had reformed. Cohen's two years of wandering had been punishment, Ecker said.

Hunted day and night, his mind was never at ease. Then, too, his counsel said, he had never laid eyes on his wife and their 7-year old son from the day he fled from their home at 432 Beach 102nd Street, Rockaway.

Justice Wasservogel said he would like the accused to take the witness stand. He was not entirely satisfied with the plea of his lawyer.

Cohen reiterated what Ecker had said. He asserted that never again would he associate with radicals. He was now an "ultra conservative."

It must be recalled that he once attended a dinner with Attorney General Berger and while there "spilled the beans" on his fellow left-wingers. Arrests followed, but Max was allowed to "escape." He now returns a penitent. The judged paroled him for four years.

The louder they shout, the harder they fall.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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