

JW-2, "Letter from Lloyd Willard-Mob Incident"

Transcript: p. 11

Text only portion for pop-up

Time-Line location: Decade V, Labor Time-line, 1947, Local 203 UE-CIO at GE drops 26 members..."

A Letter written by Lloyd Willard, Jo Willard's husband and fellow activist:

Sunday Evening, November 16, 1947, in the United States of America.

I, a World War II Veteran, allowed my wife to go to a public lecture alone. I was certain that in the country I had just served for three years, the country to which her brother had given his life, she was free and safe to go where ever she pleased. I have since then checked her story of what occurred, with the story of several eyewitnesses.

The result is a sordid tale of a veteran's council which violated the sacred constitution of the U.S. and substituted rule by mob for rule by courts of law. It is a story of two policemen who turned away in the face of a howling pack of yellow curs and allowed the bunch of cowardly women beaters to follow my wife for five blocks, continually striking and insulting her; continually threatening her life; and constantly spewing forth a stream of anti-semitic, -negro, and other un-american invective. She was saved from more serious harm only by the intervention of a lone honest, unaffiliated veteran, who drove his light car over the sidewalk into the mob and rescued her. His car was extensively damaged by the weapons of the vicious rats who surrounded her. These rats may, or may not have been members of your council. What is certain is that they were in answer to your call, as were all the other riffraff and goldbricking brown noses, that ever disgraced the armed services. They dressed in marine uniforms and many wore the cap of the Catholic War Veterans. Those men were a disgrace to my country and to the uniform I wore with pride...