

The Trial of Big Bill Haywood



William Dudley Haywood (February 4, 1869–May 18, 1928), better known as **Big Bill Haywood**, was a prominent figure in the [American labor movement](#). Haywood was a leader of the [Western Federation of Miners](#) (WFM), a founding member and leader of the [Industrial Workers of the World](#) (IWW), and a member of the Executive Committee of the [Socialist Party of America](#).

William D. Haywood is widely considered one of the foremost and most feared of America's labor leaders. Tall and gruff, "Big" Bill was a fiery speaker, powerful organizer and uninhibited critic of government and big business. . His trial for the murder of former Idaho Governor, [Frank Steunenberg](#) in 1907 (of which he was acquitted) drew national attention; in 1918, he was one of 101 IWW members convicted of violating the Espionage Act of 1917. While out of prison during an appeal of his conviction, Haywood fled to Russia, where he would spend the remaining years of his life.

Source: Wikipedia.com