

By Mr. Smith of Lynn, petition of James E. Smith relative to further regulating contempt of court decisions. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING CONTEMPT OF COURT DECISIONS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 220 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section 13A, and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:—

4 *Section 13A. Contempt cases rights of defendant.*

5 Any person who shall willfully disobey any lawful writ,  
6 process, order, decree or command of the court in any suit in  
7 which injunctive relief is sought in any matter involving or  
8 growing out of a labor dispute, as defined in section 20C of  
9 Chapter 149, excepting those allowed by sections 3, 4, 9 and 9A as  
10 amended of Chapter 150E; by doing any act or thing in or by such  
11 writ, process, order, decree or command forbidden to be done by  
12 him, if the act or so done by him is of such a character as to  
13 constitute. Also, a criminal offense under the laws of the  
14 Commonwealth shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial  
15 for his said contempt by an impartial jury of the county wherein it  
16 shall have been committed; provided that this right shall not  
17 apply to contempts committed in the presence of the court or so  
18 near thereto as to interfere directly with the administration of  
19 justice or apply to the misbehavior, misconduct or disobedience  
20 of any officer of the court in respect to the writs, orders or process  
21 of the court.

