

HERNDON FUND DRIVE IS STORY OF WORKING-CLASS DEVOTION

Hundreds of Small Sums Made Up \$18,724 Bail Total

By ANNA DAMON

The International Labor Defense can record a great victory.

Angelo Herndon has been wrested temporarily from the hands of the Georgia lynchers by the determination of thousands of workers and sympathizers; a determination which hurled its defiance at the fascist vigilante terror sweeping across the country; a determination which shouted from coast to coast, above the clamor of the lynchers: "Angelo Herndon shall not go to the chain gang!"

Angelo Herndon has become a symbol of working class heroism, of the new spirit of the American youth, Negro and white.

His release on bail was made possible by the self-sacrificing devotion of thousands of workers and sympathizers, who, in 23 short days, raised penny by penny and dollar by dollar, the sum of \$18,723.85, in loans toward the oversubscribed bail fund of \$15,000. The enthusiastic support given to this campaign by the *Daily Worker* was one of the most important contributions to its success.

It would take pages to convey a real idea of the intensity and enthusiasm of the response expressed in the hundreds of letters which accompanied the loans and the contributions to the Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund.

What Workers Wrote

Here are a few extracts from these letters:

"I am 19 years old. Have been out of work for six months. This \$10 is my first pay. May it help free Angelo Herndon." (From a girl worker in Allentown, Pa.)

"I collected tonight 50 cents from L.— for Herndon defense or bail fund and then I can't give more than 50 cents myself, but I'll try to raise another dollar or so and send it in next Monday. He got to be free.

"P. S. This is a donation to the case, so it does not have to be paid back." (Moline, Ill.)

"We are enclosing \$40. May we hope that the whole sum will be raised so he will be free." (Karl Liebknecht Branch I. W. O., Philadelphia.)

"I am enclosing a money order for \$5 contributed by a few teachers studying at the Cornell summer session, as one drop in the bucket for the \$15,000 bail for Angelo Herndon." (Ithaca, N. Y.)

"I am just terribly sorry I can't give or lend a thousand. This \$1 looks too trivial to send. But may it be multiplied a thousand-fold by some miracle." (West Grove, Pa.)

"I am sending herewith enclosed U.S. bonds in amount of \$600 to get our Angelo Herndon off the chain gang. Enuf said. Yours for the revolution." (Granada, Colo.)

"Good people: Thirty cents in stamps, best I can do. Sorry." (New York City.)

"Enclosed find \$2 for the Scottsboro-Herndon fund. I wish I could give more, but I am a subject of charity myself. If it were not for my children I don't know how I could live. I am only an old farmer, 77 years old." (Howell, Mich.)

And among the very first contributions was one of \$10 attached to a bail loan blank clipped from the *Daily Worker*, from a small

Herndon-Scottsboro Appeal Expenses Mount While Contributions to the \$15,000 Fund Lag

NEW YORK.—That funds for the \$15,000 Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund are lagging dangerously, endangering the entire campaign, was the warning issued yesterday by the National Office of the International Labor Defense.

To date, only \$3,227 has come in over a period of six weeks, with only seventeen days left to complete the collections, and daily expenses for preparation of the legal papers and other work essential to the presentation of the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris and of Angelo Herndon to the U. S. Supreme Court mounting steadily.

At the same time, it was pointed out that the nature of the contributions coming in show the huge possibilities for developing this campaign.

A group of share-croppers in Mississippi—the most oppressed and the poorest of the toiling masses—who sent to the national office of the I. L. D. for Scottsboro-Herndon collection lists, returned three of them within a week, with \$4.34 collected on them, and a promise of more collections.

Other contributions have been mostly in denominations of one and two dollars, collected by individuals.

A number of those who made loans to the Herndon bail fund have returned their certificates to free a portion of the amount oversubscribed for the bail fund. Special honor certificates, signed by Angelo Herndon, will be issued to all those making this exchange.

Funds should be rushed to the National Office of the I. L. D., 80 East 11th Street, New York.

town in Ontario, Canada.

The simple facts of the bail fund campaign are tremendously significant for the broad working class defense movement led by the International Labor Defense, indicating in broad strokes the tremendous, untouched reserves of militant class solidarity which the I. L. D. must, dropping the last vestiges of sectarianism behind, reach out and grasp:

Seven hundred and ninety-seven separate loans from individuals and organizations went to make up the fund.

Fifteen national mass organizations, with a total membership reaching into the hundreds of thousands, participated.

Approximately 5,000 workers and sympathizers were drawn into active participation in the campaign.

Ten I. L. D. districts raised \$4,293.50 of the total. Of these the New York District, though slow in getting started, made the best showing, raising a total of \$2,222.50 in bail fund loans.

Two hundred and fifty-five individuals loaned from \$1 to \$5; 202 individuals loaned from \$5 to \$10; 142 individuals loaned from \$10 to \$25; 73 individuals loaned from \$25 to \$50; 50 individuals loaned from \$50 to \$100; 55 individuals loaned \$100 or more.

Loans came from 23 States, including California, where the fiercest vigilante fascist terror raged throughout the period of the drive, and from Canada.

The campaign gained momentum slowly, but in the last few days funds poured in as fast as they could be entered in the books. The first Herndon bail loan came on July 9. By July 26, only \$2,865.96 had been collected—15 days had gone by, only seven days were left, and only one-seventh of the total amount had been collected. On that day the *Daily Worker* began to print totals collected every day. On July 26, the figure jumped to a total of more than \$5,000. On the 27th, with five more days to go, the half-way mark was passed. On Monday, the 29th, with only three days more to go, only \$8,627 had been sent in. In two days \$4,000 more came in.

By the last day a little over \$14,000

had come in, and by the end of Aug. 2 the fund had been oversubscribed. After that hundreds of dollars in loans were turned back.

During this period, about \$1,200 had been raised in contributions for the \$15,000 Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund, which must be completed by Aug. 31. It is significant that practically all of this amount was contributed in very small individual sums.

The entire campaign for the Herndon bail was carried through at an expense of about \$125, thanks to the dozens of volunteers outside of the regular staff of the I. L. D. who sacrificed their spare time to stuff envelopes, type and carry out other essential tasks.

Fight for Full Freedom

Now we have brought Herndon out of his Georgia torture-chamber. We have saved him for a time from the lynchers. Now we must renew and redouble our fight to keep him out. Every organization of workers and sympathizers, hundreds of thousands of new forces, must be rallied to participate in the fight for the complete freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.

Aug. 22, the anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, is the date set for huge demonstrations all over the U. S. A. to demand full freedom for the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon.

Many of the I. L. D. districts have already begun preparations to make this a day which will put fear into the heart of the ruling class. Preparatory conferences for mobilization for this day, as well as to put into action the machinery for sustained support for the defense of the Scottsboro boys and Herndon, and for a drive for the Bill of Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, are on the way in many districts.

The Herndon Tour

There is little time left. The Districts of the I. L. D. must without delay renew the contacts previously made through the Scottsboro Action Committees, consolidate them and broaden out still further. The entire working class movement must be mobilized behind this campaign, and every force available

Now \$15,000 Is Needed for Scottsboro-Herndon Appeal Expense

used to reach new masses of workers and sympathizers.

The Scottsboro-Herndon petition and collection lists must be put into the hands of the members of the I. L. D. and of the mass organizations, and especially of the trade unions. A thorough and constant check-up must be made on these lists, and the lists themselves as well as the money collected on them sent to the National Office without any delay.

Plans should begin to be laid now in the various districts for the Herndon tour, which should help crystallize a tremendous movement over the entire country for the fight against terror and fascism, for the defense of the Scottsboro boys and of Herndon himself, of Tom Mooney and the 500 West Coast prisoners.

In all of these activities steps must be taken to recruit members into the I. L. D., to strengthen it organizationally, and to build the circulation of the *Labor Defender*, official organ of the I. L. D. and the only working class pictorial in America.

Only Mass Pressure

The workers have saved Angelo Herndon from the chain gang. But Angelo Herndon is not free yet. The nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys are still in prison, still under the shadow of the lynchers' electric chair. While the sentence against him—18 to 20 years on the chain gang—is being appealed, Angelo Herndon is at liberty. But if the U. S. Supreme Court decides against him, he must go back into the hands of the Georgia lynch officials.

The Supreme Court can be forced to give a decision in Herndon's favor, can be forced to reverse the monstrous lynch decision against the Scottsboro boys only by mass pressure.

It is this pressure that we must now organize, on a far broader scale than ever before. We must collect, with the same speed, at the same tempo, that we collected the Herndon bail, the \$12,673 still needed toward appealing these cases.

The fight to free Angelo Herndon, the Scottsboro boys, Ernst Thaelmann and the victims of the terror on the West Coast, is the fight against the growing menace of fascism in this country. What is at stake in the Herndon case is the right of workers to organize, to strike, to read workers' literature, to belong to the Party of the working class. What is at stake is the right of two oppressed groups of workers, white and black, to organize together to fight for their rights.

What is at stake in the Herndon and Scottsboro cases is the rights of a nation of 13,000,000 Negroes, and of the millions of white workers, poor farmers and impoverished middle class people over the whole country.

The victory achieved in raising the Herndon bail fund, in forcing the release of Herndon on bail, must be made a complete victory—the complete freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.

Forward in the fight to secure the freedom of Herndon, the Scottsboro boys, Ernst Thaelmann, the prisoners arrested on the West Coast and all class-war prisoners!