

A LETTER FROM ANGELO HERNDON

I received your letter together with the one dollar today and was glad to have it.

First, to begin with, I must tell you of the weary and lonesome days that I have to experience, cooped up in this horrible and filthy place. Since I was tried and convicted, I have been held in the death house. About 2 months ago three of my cell mates were electrocuted. I can't tell you of the terrible strain that it was upon me; they were just as relatives to me. They were three more victims of the hideous frame up system that all Negroes are subjected to. Their crime was being implicated in the killing of an Atlanta policeman although they didn't do the actual killing. The one who shot the policeman died of the bullet wounds inflicted on him by the policeman.

After being with them for over seven months and then to know that they were legally lynched for nothing almost drove me into a state of morbidity. And a long time before the job had been finished all of us who were in the cell struck silence.

So now I am in the cage with three more. Two condemned to death and the other one soon will be.

For 15 months I have been subjected to the most criminal and savage treatment. It would almost sound unbelievable to hear some of the details. I am not given any work to do. Just lay around in my cell all day and starve. No exercise. We are forced to eat dog meat. Not long ago my legs were swollen up as a result of eating the rotten prison food. When I asked for medical treatment the county doctor

gave me some aspirin. Of course he would give me better medicine if I would stoop so low as to offer him a bribe.

So now, comrades I hope you will understand what a miserable life I have had to live. But in spite of all this capitalist brutality I know the American workers will soon wrest me from the death clutches of the Southern lynch lords. I know that for the working class to be completely free it will require even harder sacrificing.

And for my part I am willing to give up my life if it becomes necessary to smash the damnable capitalist system.

Comrade
Angelo Herndon
Atlanta, Ga.