

A Letter From Herndon

IN ALL of the preparations for National Youth Day and on that day greater masses of Negro and white youth must be rallied for the fight to free young Angelo Herndon, doomed to a life of torture and enslavement for 20 years on the barbarous chain-gangs of Georgia.

The fight to free him must be one of the sharpest and most stubbornly fought by the young and adult workers in their battle against the evergrowing capitalist terror. The cry of "FREE ANGELO HERNDON" must resound in a mighty torrent of mass protest which will compel the Southern white ruling class to set him free.

The Young Worker is glad to publish here a recent letter sent by Angelo Herndon to a young worker in New York. This letter clearly shows that the fierce ruling class terror, the gloom of his dungeon cell, has not stifled the militant spirit of this brave young organizer of the working class.

The letter is as follows:

Fulton Tower
Atlanta Georgia

Dear Comrade Carroll:

I received your letter together with the news-items O.K. But I am sorry that I have been so late in answering it. I have been so restless and upset over the Decatur lynch verdict until I just haven't had the mind to write any.

For the lynch bosses of Alabama to chew up and spit out such a rotten verdict in the Patterson trial after worlds of evidence had been provided proving his innocence and the other boys' innocence is an indication that they will not stop at anything to uphold their lynch and slave system against the Negro masses. Such verdict is enough to make any thinking person spit their stomachs up.

This verdict should be one of the most convincing things to the whole Negro people that only through mass action can they ever liberate themselves from un-

Angelo Herndon



der the heels of the slave masters, and to hell with the courts, . . .

Oh! how I wish I was on the outside to participate in the developing struggles.

Comradely yours,
ANGELO HERNDON

The answer of every young worker to this letter must be even greater energy and determination in the fight for the Scottsboro boys, in the fight to free Angelo Herndon, in the struggle to smash the brutal lynch terror of the Southern bankers and land-owners.

We must say to young Her-

ndon: "We are fighting to get you 'outside'! Our answer to your imprisonment is a thousand-fold increase in our united struggles to save the Scottsboro boys, to liberate you!"

WHAT "CRIME" DID HERNDON COMMIT?

Angelo Herndon was arrested on March 16, 1932 in Atlanta, Georgia, because of the leading part that he played in organizing a demonstration of 1000 Negro and white unemployed workers to protest in the cutting off of unemployed relief. The demonstration was held in front of the Fulton County Courthouse.

An old Georgia law, passed in 1870 to crush the struggles of the Negro masses, was used to convict him, by an all-white jury, of the charge of "inciting to insurrection". A section of the Grand Jury indictment shows the open ruling class character of this frame-up. We quote part of it:

"Accused did by speech and persuasion, solicit and attempt to persuade and solicit persons whose names to the Grand Jury are unknown to combine with, to join and to confederate with and to become members, agents, and parties to and of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League, and to become members, agents and parties of and to the Communist Party of America, to the intent and purpose of creating, offering, establishing and waging war against the lawfully constituted authority of the State of Georgia by acts of violence and by revolution and establishing in the place of the said lawfully constituted authority of the State of Georgia a new government known as the United Soviets of Soviet Russia, sometimes called and known as the 'Dictatorship of the Propertyless People'."