

"As We Go Marching Thru Georgia"

1866 or 1934 — It's All One to Georgia's Lynchers

By Louis Colman

*"Ain't it a shame to beat your wife on Sunday—
When you got Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday, too . . .
Ain't it a shame!"*

—Old Spiritual.

On Sundays, the Rev. John A. Hudson is a pillar of the church. He preaches to pious ruling-class white folks.

On week-days, he is the most fiendish persecutor of the Negroes, of the white workers, in Atlanta.

Terror, legal murder, fiendish torture and persecution, are the weapons of this survivor of medieval barbarity, carrying out the dictates of the most modern industrialist and landlord class. His job—which occupies him Sunday as well as week-days—he describes as "burning Communism out of Georgia" in the electric chair.

What is it actually?

Well, December 7 has been set as the date of execution for two of the Scottsboro boys. Their cases are now being brought before the U. S. Supreme Court on appeal by the I.L.D. Herndon's case, with its fiendish sentence of 18 to 20 years on the chain-gang (Hudson's job, too) is also being appealed to this "court of last illusions".

The whole ruling class has set itself the task of preparation through terror for these appeals, just as the whole working-class, the Negro people, have set themselves the task of mobilizing the widest protest to smash these verdicts, to force the unconditional freedom of these victims of capitalist justice.

Terror, arrests, sentences, a special law which prohibits the possession of more than one copy of anything which the police feel like calling "Communist literature", fascist bombings, organizing of new and bigger fascist gangs—K.K.K., Black Shirts, American Fascisti, White Legion—murder of sharecroppers, frame-up and kidnapping of lawyers. These are the contribution of Alabama.

Terror and frame-up, lockout and blacklist, against the textile workers, the Kotton Ku Klux Klan riding through the fields. These are the contribution of the Carolinas.

The lynching of Claude Neal, with its attendant orgies, with invitations being spread through the lynch-press by a "lynching committee", and their official organ the "Dothan Eagle" of Alabama which has been one of the

foremost lynch-organs in the Scottsboro, Tallapoosa, and other cases, the interstate kidnapping of Neal (in which the Federal government has refused to act through the so-called "Lindbergh Law" obligates them to such action); mass terrorization of the Negro people, terror against the citrus workers, the striking seamen. These are the contribution of Florida, the rich man's playground.

Hudson, beg pardon, the Rev. Hudson, has his own particular task to perform for his bosses. He has decreed:

It is a "capital crime" in Georgia to oppose war and fascism!

It is a "capital crime" to belong to the International Workers' Order, a working-class fraternal benefit organization!

It is a "capital crime" to circulate literature in support of strike struggles!

It is a "capital crime" to advocate the unity of black and white workers!

It is a "capital crime" to live in the same house with anyone belonging to any of these classifications!

These are the "crimes" of Angelo Herndon. On these charges eight Negro workers, one of them a delegate to the Second U. S. Congress Against War and Fascism, three white women, and two white men, are now held in Atlanta and Decatur, Ga., some of them without bond.

Raid has followed raid in Atlanta. Raids on the offices of the Urban League, on the Negro Y.M.C.A. Raids have been made on private homes. In one of these, Clarence Weaver, Negro

delegate to the anti-war congress, was reporting on the Chicago meeting to three white friends—Mrs. R. W. Alling, Nathan Yagol, a graduate student and instructor at Emory University, and Alexander Racolin, an attorney. All four were arrested. They are held in DeKalb county jail without bond, charged with a "capital crime"—that means one in which the death penalty will be asked—under the same law that was invoked against Herndon and the "Atlanta Six".

Raids on private homes also netted the police eight Negro men and women—Mrs. Fannie Aderhold, secretary of the local I.W.O. branch, J. A. Moreland, president of the local, Mrs. Julia Weaver, Mrs. Lucille Lawrence, and other workers whose crime it was that they rented rooms from members of the I.W.O.

These are held on charges of "circulating insurrectionary literature". They have been indicted, and bond of \$5,000 cash has been set for them.

What kind of literature are they accused of "circulating" because they had it in their houses. You'd be surprised, if any thing were surprising any more about Georgia's reign of terror:

The "Labor Defender", the "Daily Worker", "Liberty" Magazine, "What Every Young Girl Should Know", "Fight", the literature of the U. S. Congress Against War and Fascism, literature about I.W.O. policies, applications for I.W.O. membership. A huge stack of literature as miscellaneous as that.

Annie Mae Leathers and Leah Young, two white women charged under the same slave-law for having literature supporting the textile strike in their possession on a textile picket-line, are also among those on Hudson's (the Rev. Hudson's) death list. They are in jail awaiting trial.

The united front of the bosses is watching these Georgia cases, just as they are watching the criminal syndicalism cases in Sacramento, Calif., in Hillsboro, Ill., and other cases all over the country. They are watching the fight that is being put up against this terror, and for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys. They are looking for every means, every method, which can successfully be used to smash workers' organizations.

What can you do?

Read Angelo Herndon's appeal, printed below.

I KNOW THE MIGHT OF MASS PROTEST

By Angelo Herndon

The working class *through its mass protest and demonstration* have succeeded in snatching me from my death on the chain gang, at least temporarily, and the same thing can and must be done in forcing the release of Anne Leathers and Leah Young and the nine Scottsboro boys.

When the reactionary forces are trying to disrupt the mass defense of the Scottsboro boys and are doing everything that they possibly can in order to send them to their death, I think it is of extreme importance to stress the effectiveness of mass pressure. *For it*

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was mass pressure that enabled me to live behind the walls of Fulton Tower and see the long tedious and excruciating days (days that seemed to have no end) go by until 26 months had elapsed.

FLOOD THE REV. SOLICITOR HUDSON WITH PROTESTS DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF LEATHERS, YOUNG, THE OTHER THIRTEEN ARRESTED WORKERS AND AN END TO THE NEW REIGN OF FASCIST TERROR AGAINST THE WORKERS OF GEORGIA: ADDRESS: REV. SOL. HUDSON FULTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, ATLANTA, GA.