

YCL Asks Unity To Aid Herndon

Socialist Youth Asked to Enter Joint Fight for Georgia Negro

An appeal for joint action in the struggle for the freedom of Angelo Herndon was addressed to the National Executive Committee of the Young People's Socialist League yesterday by the National Committee of the Young Communist League. The appeal, signed by Angelo Herndon and Gil Green, cites the action of the National Continuations Committee of the American Youth Congress and the joint action of the National Student League and the Student League for Industrial Democracy in Herndon's behalf and calls for similar united action of the Y.C.L. and the Y.P.S.L.

**Complete Text of the Appeal
To the Young People's Socialist
League,
558 Randolph Street,
Chicago, Ill.**

Dear Comrades:

Undoubtedly you have read of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in refusing to discuss the merits in the case of Angelo Herndon, who was sentenced to 18 to 20 years on the chain gang for organizing Negro and white workers for relief. This decision is a characteristic one, particularly in view of the dissenting opinion by the three Supreme Court Justices—Cardoza, Brandeis, and Stone. The minority opinion clearly exposes the other charges in resorting to legal technicalities to cover up their aid to the lynchers of the South. This is one of the most outrageous and vicious frame ups. We feel that it is not necessary to point out in this letter the political significance of the Herndon case, because it should be clear to you that this attack upon Herndon is an attempt on the part of the ruling class of America, not only to kill Herndon as an individual, but to trample under foot the democratic rights that we have paid for in blood. In view of the deepening of the economic crisis and the sharpening of the war danger, this decision is an act that will not only intensify fascist terror and whip up race hatred against the Negro people, but is also a step towards forcing fascism upon the American toiling masses.

Three Points Recommended

We feel that you can clearly see the burning necessity of uniting in one big mass fight to smash this frame up on Herndon. Already many organizations have agreed to unite around this particular case, because they can see that their own rights are involved. You know of the action taken by Comrade Norman Thomas in support of the Herndon campaign. In his interview with Herndon, Thomas stated that he was willing to do everything in his power to arouse public opinion around the Herndon case. This action on

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the part of Comrade Thomas should not only arouse you to the urgency of taking immediate action, but in view of the whole rank frame up, we feel that you will be willing to join with us in this noble fight for the rights of the American people. The First American Youth Congress adopted a resolution demanding the immediate release of Angelo Herndon. Now the Continuations Committee of the American Youth Congress has decided to initiate a broad campaign for the release of Angelo Herndon. They are getting out post-cards which will be sent to the U. S. Supreme Court. The Student League of Industrial Democracy and the National Student League in New York, have agreed to arrange a joint conference to take steps to fight for the freedom of Angelo Herndon. United Action in this fight, will be a tremendous aid in helping to stave off fascism and the new wave of terror and other forms of reaction that we can witness today. We believe, that on such an issue there will be no difficulty for us to unite in a common struggle.

Therefore, we recommend to you:

(1) That the National Executive Committees of the Young People's Socialist League and of the Young Communist League shall decide to arrange joint mass meetings throughout the country for the freedom of Angelo Herndon.

(2) That the Y.P.S.L. together with the Y.C.L. shall initiate a broad campaign for the adoption of resolutions in trade unions, youth organizations, churches and other groups for the freedom of Angelo Herndon.

(3) That a joint statement be issued by the Y.P.S.L. and the Y.C.L. to be published, demanding the freedom of Angelo Herndon.

We believe that immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely yours,

ANGELO HERNDON AND
GIL GREEN, for the Na-
tional Executive Committee
of the Young Communist
League.