

Goal of 2,000,000 Names Set by I. L. D. Petition Drive Demanding Herndon's Release

Herndon Appeals to All Daily Worker Readers To Back Campaign

The roar of 2,000,000 voices demanding the freedom of Angelo Herndon is the aim of the campaign announced yesterday by the International Labor Defense for a petition that will be circulated and presented to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia when it is completed.

A complete explanation of the campaign, its significance and the background of the case was given in a letter sent by Herndon to the Daily Worker yesterday. The letter in full follows:

"Dear Comrades:

"For a short time, at any rate, I have again been saved from the Georgia chain gang. The execution of the sentence that condemned me to serve 18 to 20 years in chains on the Georgia roads, was stayed on June 11, when Justice Owen J. Roberts of the U. S. Supreme Court, yielding to the indignation aroused by my sentence, agreed to a postponement until the court can consider my application for re-hearing, in the fall.

Nature of "Crime"

"Of course all the regular readers of the Daily Worker are already familiar with my case. For the benefit of those who are seeing the paper for the first time, I want to say the following:

"I was sentenced in 1933, not for any 'crime' but for leading a thousand Negro and white workers to the Fulton County Commissioners to ask for bread. The police found among my possessions, when they raided my house without a warrant, pamphlets and leaflets calling for equal rights for the Negro people.

For these actions I was indicted on a statute originating in the days before the Civil War, designed to crush the revolts of slaves against their masters.

Petition Campaign

"The regular readers of the Daily Worker know also how the United States Supreme Court, on May 20, washed its hands of the grave issues involved in my case—the right of free speech, assembly, the right of workers to organize, the right of white and Negro to mingle together. The highest court did not pass on these issues. It clutched instead at the straw of a false technicality, and refused to consider the merits of the case at all. From this decision, three of the Supreme Court justices dissented.

"The International Labor Defense, which has all along fought for my freedom, is now launching a campaign for two million signatures to a petition to be presented to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia. This petition will demand my freedom. It will demand also that the shameful slave-law be taken off the Georgia statute books. Eighteen persons other than myself have been arrested under this law, and are now awaiting trial. Ten of them are members of the International Workers Order, arrested simply for their membership in that organization.

Protests Urged

"The petitions to the Governor of Georgia will be circulated in every State. I appeal to the readers of the Daily Worker to obtain these petitions, and to take them into every place where workers and their friends gather.

"I appeal to the readers of the Daily Worker, also to send to the U. S. Supreme Court protest telegrams, protest letters, demanding a re-hearing in my case in the fall.

"Above all, I ask for speed, for quick action. The period of freedom that I have won is very, very short.

"ANGELO HERNDON."

Demand the immediate and unconditional release of Isidro Figueras, trade union leader imprisoned in Cuba.

THEY SAW SOCIALISM AT WORK



Hector Duprey, left, Socialist Party member of New Bedford, Mass., delegate of the United Textile Workers of New Bedford, and Martha Koopman, member of the Morningside Branch of the Socialist Party, New York, are greeted by Corliss Lamont. They were among twelve American workers who have just returned from a visit to the Soviet Union as a workers' delegation from the U. S.

"If ever I saw freedom, it was in the Soviet Union," said Martha Koopman.

The delegation is now on a speaking tour. The full schedule follows: **PITTSBURGH**—Wednesday evening, at the N. S. Carnegie Lecture Hall, Ohio and Federal Streets, at 8:30 o'clock.

CLEVELAND—Friday evening, at 8 o'clock at the Public Auditorium (South A Hall).

DETROIT—Monday evening, June 24, at 8 o'clock at the Danish Brotherhood Temple, 1775 Forest Street West. Maurice Suagr will act as chairman.

CHICAGO—Tuesday evening, June 25.

Communist Statement Brands Order to Arrest 'Agitators' In West Coast Lumber Strike

SEATTLE, Wash., June 18.—Governor Clarence D. Martin's order to the State Highway Patrol to arrest "agitators" and known Communists among the ranks of the 40,000 striking lumber workers, has been characterized by the District Committee of the Communist Party, as a "direct incitement to violence and instruction to the police to attack the picket lines."

A statement just issued by the Party, follows in full:

"The order of Governor Martin calling upon the State Patrol to arrest pickets and especially members and leaders of the Communist Party, is a direct incitement to violence, and instruction to the police to attack the picket lines. By this order Gov. Martin comes out openly in an attempt to use the forces of the State to smash the strike for the benefit of the lumber companies.

Weak Pretense

"Governor Martin makes a weak pretense that his order is based on 'the men's desire to return to work.' The striking lumber workers have shown repeatedly through their unions and strike committees that they went on strike against intolerable conditions and that they are determined to stay out until their demands are granted. Governor Martin knows perfectly well that it is a lie that 'the men want to return' under the old conditions.

"Governor Martin's order is an exact parallel of the advertisements of the fascist Committee of 500. In issuing this order, Governor Martin shows that he considers himself the Executive Official of the Committee of 500, and not of the mass of the people of this State.

"By calling for the arrest of members and leaders of the Communist Party—a legal political party—Governor Martin takes a step that is openly fascist and a complete violation of American principles of democracy.

Exposed Sell-out Schemes

"Martin centers his attack upon the Communist Party because it is the Communist Party and those of its members who are striking lumber workers, which has continually

taken the lead in exposing the various sell-out schemes, in consolidating the strike under the control of the rank and file strikers, so that the strikers may win their demands.

"The strike could have been over already if the just demands of the strikers had been granted. Through placing the State force at the disposal of the lumber bosses, Governor Martin is encouraging them to refuse concessions, and thus making himself responsible for prolonging the strike.

"Governor Martin says that 'Communist activities must not be tolerated in Washington.' But he says nothing about tolerating the starvation wages, terrible accident rate and speed-up conditions in the lumber industry.

Tolerates Fascist Activities

"Nor does he say anything about tolerating the fascist activities and incitement to violence of the Committee of 500. Nor does he say anything about tolerating the \$30,000,000 W.E.R.A. graft steal, which he was the principal figure in.

"The Communist Party will continue its efforts to help the lumber workers in their strike. It is confident that the mass of the people of this State will defend the lumber strikers and the Communist Party against Governor Martin's strikebreaking, fascist action.

"We call on all workers and the organizations to send protests to Governor Martin. We warn him that the people of this State will hold him personally responsible for any violence on the picket line resulting from his attacks."

Picnic Postponed

LOS ANGELES, Cal., June 18. In view of the fact that the Los Angeles Sanatorium and the E. Patients Home at Duarte are giving their annual picnic on Sunday in order to raise funds so that medical treatment can be provided for tubercular patients who can not afford payments, the International Worker Order has postponed the picnic, scheduled for Sunday and have urged all workers to attend the hospital affair.