

Negro Masses Need Leaders Like Herndon

By James W. Ford

To how many of the embittered, hungry people of Harlem the name of Angelo Herndon has become a symbol of revolt against twentieth-century Negro slavery? One thing is certain: the action of this youth, daring to organize not only his fellow-Negroes, but white and Negro workers together in the very heart of the South, his bold stand before the Georgia lynch-courts, have put courage into the heart of thousands in Harlem.

Herndon stooped up before the Georgia lynch-ers, where he had been taken handcuffs for the crime of demanding food and shelter for the jobless, and flung this challenge in the very face of the lynch-rulers: "They can hold this Angelo Herndon and hundreds of others, but it will never stop these demonstrations on the part of Negro and white workers who demand a decent place to live in and proper food for their kids to eat. "You may do what you will with Angelo Herndon. But there will come thousands of Angelo Herndons."

To mold this furious resentment of the Negro masses, to organize it, to lead it, we need militant fighters like Angelo Herndon.

Seeing the growing anger and bitterness of the masses of Negro people—and of the advanced white workers who know that the chains of Jim-Crowism are a fetter about their own feet—the Supreme Court will, in one sense, be the more anxious to send Herndon to the chain-gang. But there is another side to this matter. The revolts among the Negro masses—organized and spontaneous—will also make the Supreme Court think twice before they dare fly in the face of this spirit by denying the plea of such a beloved mass leader, such a revolutionary symbol, as Herndon has become. And one of the channels into the revolutionary spirit of the Harlem—and other—workers must be led, is a great mass movement for the freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys