

Thomas to Seek Nation-Wide Socialist Support for Herndon

Will Ask National Body of S. P. to Give Its Official Sanction

(By Federated Press)

Norman Thomas will ask the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party at its coming meeting to give official support to Angelo Herndon, he told the 22-year-old Negro, framed to 18-to-20 years on the Georgia chain gang for leading an unemployed demonstration to demand more adequate relief.

The Socialist Party's National Executive Committee meeting will take place sometime between now and July 4, Thomas stated.

"It is time for all workers, all lovers of justice and decency, without regard to politics to speak up," Thomas said. "There is an effective pressure of public opinion which can yet be brought to bear upon all those concerned in this monstrous miscarriage of justice to

correct it before it is too late. We want no more Sacco and Vanzetti or Mooney and Billings cases in America."

Thomas also stated that he was attempting to get some time for a broadcast on civil liberties. "If I do, I will stress the Herndon case as one of the outstanding instances of retrogression of civil liberties," he promised.

L.L.D. Presses Appeal

Thomas minced no words in his opinion of the vicious frameup. "If the United States Supreme Court should refuse the second hearing, I declare my willingness to join a delegation to bring pressure upon the President himself," he stated.

Following the recent refusal of the United States Supreme Court to consider Herndon's appeal, the International Labor Defense is planning to appeal for a rehearing based mainly on the dissenting opinions of the three leading justices of the Supreme Court—Cardozo, Stone and Brandeis—who clearly pointed out that the majority of the court had resorted

to legal technicalities to avoid dealing with the case.



ANGELO HERNDON

The Socialist leader expressed his belief that the Herndon fight will easily win "immense support" from the masses of American people. "It's particularly important to get lots of these churches and churchmen to put up or shut up," he said. "And I think most of them will help."

No More Raw Case

"I know of no case which is so absolutely raw as this one. Herndon is condemned to the living hell of 20 years on a Georgia chain gang, perhaps the worst fate possible to man in a so-called civilized country. And why? Simply because he was convicted under an old, barbarous and hitherto unused statute in Georgia dating back to the unhappy days following the Civil War. Herndon led no mob, incited to no violence, did not even make what would be called a 'subversive' speech. It happens that he is both a Communist and a Negro and that he was organizing peacefully to obtain better relief conditions for workers, of course, including colored workers."

"Time for All Workers To Speak Up," Says Socialist Leader

For this, and only for this, a young man, a genuine working class idealist—and I who say this am no Communist—now faces the fate to which many would think that death is preferable.

"In all my experience in civil liberties, I don't know anything so completely raw."

Thomas cracked down on Gov. Eugene Talmadge of Georgia, the State which is trying to send Herndon to a living death on the chain gang.

"Talmadge is the one who maintained concentration camps during last year's textile strike," he recalled. "He had the militia out. He is one of the lowest order of demagogues—and that's pretty low. He quite openly used relief funds to build his political machine and has repeatedly discriminated against Negroes."