

Must Angelo Herndon Die?

By ANN BURLAK

TWENTY YEARS ON THE CHAIN GANG! THE STORY OF ANGELO HERNDON. By Elizabeth Lawson. 16 pp. illustrated pamphlet. Published by the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York. Price, 1 cent.

AS ONE of the "Atlanta Six," indicted for the same crime for which Angelo Herndon was convicted, the crime of organizing Negro and white workers, the new pamphlet first issued by the International Labor Defense is of the greatest interest to me. But this pamphlet is of interest and of the greatest importance to the whole American working class.

Here, in a dramatic fashion, the main incidents in the life of Herndon and in the events leading up to and following his arrest and conviction are told. His life as a miner, his joining the Communist Party, his first steps in organizing white and Negro workers are told. Here also is recounted the thrilling race against time in which \$15,000 cash bail was raised to snatch Angelo Herndon out of the hands of the Fulton County jailers. In conclusion, the pamphlet describes the legal battle in the Supreme Court, shows just why and how the U. S. Supreme Court evaded judging the case and condemned Herndon to the chain gang on a technicality. The pamphlet ends with a description of what can be done to free Herndon.

The Herndon case is one of the most important working class cases ever to reach the Supreme Court. The other, of course, is the Scottsboro case. The freeing of Herndon

means not only a blow against Jim crowism and the oppression of the Negro people, it affirms the right of workers to organize. Herndon was arrested as an organizer and as a Negro. The case becomes a

20 YEARS on the Chain Gang?



ANGELO HERNDON MUST GO FREE

test of whether the Georgia slave statutes are still in force and, more importantly, of whether the Communist Party is a legal party or not.

But the case is also the case of Angelo Herndon. All who have ever heard him speak, since that day when he arrived in Pennsylvania Station, free on bail, to be greeted by thousands of cheering workers, till the present, all who know him and all who have read about him, know Angelo Herndon for the working class hero that he is. The case is not only that of the civil rights of the American workers, Negro and white, but also that of a working

class leader who has come to be beloved.

THE first reaction of everyone to the Supreme Court decision was: What can be done now? Must Herndon go to his death on the chain gang? The answer is contained in this pamphlet. It describes what the workers can do to save Herndon. The pamphlet itself is one of the weapons to be used in the struggle against the Georgia authorities and in the fight to force the Supreme Court to re-hear the case. For this reason, this pamphlet should be spread. It should be read for the clear description it contains of the case and of the life of Herndon. It should be read for the part it will enable the reader to play in the fight for Herndon. It should be spread among as many other workers as possible.

"The coming weeks are crucial in the life of the working class and in the life of the Negro people. These days, when the fate of Angelo Herndon hangs in the balance, will be remembered as a turning point in the struggle for freedom. At such a time as this, let no one stand aside. For what we do or leave undone today, our children's children will hold us to account.

"By the might of a million toilers, organized and led by the International Labor Defense, Angelo Herndon can yet be restored to the ranks of the working class."

With these words, the new pamphlet on Angelo Herndon comes to a fitting close. Angelo Herndon can be freed. Angelo Herndon must be freed. This pamphlet can play a great part in the fight for freedom.