

'Confident of Victory,' Herndon Says in Letter

Negro Hero Writes Hathaway of Firm Belief Working Class Will Soon Bring Case to Successful Conclusion

"I have never felt so confident before, even during the whole long three and a half years of fighting, that the working class will soon bring the case to a final and successful conclusion."

From the Georgia bastille in which the ruling class has imprisoned him, Angelo Herndon, heroic young Negro worker condemned to slow death on the barbarous chain gang, has sent these courageous words in a letter glowing with the spirit of struggle and faith in the labor movement.

Text of Letter

The letter, addressed to C. A. Hathaway, editor of the Daily Worker, follows:

"Dear Comrade Hathaway:—

"I wanted very much to see you before I left, but you will understand that it was quite impossible under the circumstances.

"I want, through you, to reassure all of my friends that although I have been thrust back into Fulton Tower—and no doubt will be sent to the chain gang—I do not feel in the least bit defeated, nor have all our efforts been futile.

"After all of the experience it would seem that all my hopes are shattered, but I have never felt so confident before, even during the whole long three and a half years of fighting that the working class will soon bring the case to a final and successful conclusion.

"You will understand that it is difficult to express my real feelings under the circumstances. We often



Angelo Herndon

use the phrase that "we are a part of a whole class within society"—but I wonder how many of us have

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'Sure of Victory' Herndon Says

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really had that feeling. The point that I'm trying to put across is when we know that we are blood and flesh of the same kind, it gives new life, courage and inspiration to any path or individual from that group or class not only to go forward in the fight, but to be so fortunate enough to sacrifice and give his all in the fight for freedom—moreover to symbolize it.

"I concede that some time it seems that every effort we make to obtain our rights is looked upon with contempt and cold indifference, as if the indignant voices of millions of people was never heard. But this is contrary to all common sense. A ruling class of despots cannot maintain themselves by crushing or ignoring every cry of millions whose only interest is in preserving and protecting the rights of the majority. Every voice they crush, every cry that is ignored is evidence that they feel the effects of such a fight—which is inevitably destined to lead to their defeat.

"Best regards to Mother Bloor and all the comrades.

"Yours,

"Angelo Herndon."

Chain Gang Order Stayed

Herndon entered Fulton Tower prison on Oct. 28 to begin serving his sentence of from 18 to 20 years on the chain gang following the refusal of the United States Supreme Court to act in the case. His transfer to the chain gang has been temporarily stayed by the filing of an application for a writ of habeas corpus by Attorney W. A. Sutherland, retained by Whitney North Seymour of New York, who has been retained by the International Labor Defense. The application for the writ is scheduled to be argued Nov. 12.

Herndon was arrested in Atlanta in 1931 on an old pre-Civil War slave insurrection statute because he tried to organize Negro and white workers to win higher relief.

A signature campaign to secure Herndon's pardon by Governor Tammadge is now under way. Organizations and individuals are urged to speed up the collection of signatures. Petition lists may be secured from the national office of the International Labor Defense, 80 E. 11th St., New York, as well as from local offices.

Organizations are also called on to send protest resolutions to Governor Tammadge.