

Meetings and Petitions Speed Fight for Herndon

Broad Representation Indicated at New York Conference—Negro Youth Appeals to A. F. L. Leaders to Raise Issue at Convention

Meetings and demonstrations in every part of the country, and a flood of signed Herndon petition lists is the answer of the workers of America to the decision of the United States Supreme Court last Monday refusing a second time to review the case of Angelo Herndon, and dooming him to death by torture on the Georgia chain-gang.

Reports from New York, Philadelphia, Denver, Chicago and the coast cities, reaching the office of the International Labor Defense here yesterday indicated that mass meetings and demonstrations are being planned on a bigger scale than ever before in the campaign. Everywhere the issue of the defense of Ethiopia against fascist Italy is being linked with the defense of Angelo Herndon against the lynchers of Georgia.

The New York Herndon action conference to be held tomorrow afternoon at the call of the Joint Committee to Aid the Herndon Defense, in Imperial Hall, 160 West 129th Street, will be more broadly representative than any previous conference, it was indicated today, as organization after organization signified its intention of sending delegates.

Petitions Pour In

Signed Herndon petition lists, addressed to Governor Talmadge of Georgia, poured into the office of the Herndon Petition Committee, as people in every part of the country increased their efforts to reach the goal of 2,000,000 signatures demanding Herndon's freedom before he has to surrender on Oct. 24.

Scores of petitions coming in were accompanied by letters telling of demands sent to Governor Talmadge direct, by wire and by resolution, from individuals and organizations, that he act immediately on the case, and set Herndon free before he has served a single day on the chain-gang.

Anna Damon, acting national secretary of the International Labor Defense, again appealed yesterday for funds urgently needed to carry

the case further, into Georgia itself, and to speed the campaign. A minimum of \$2,000 is needed within a few days for the expenses of legal steps alone, she said.

Appeals to A. F. L. Leaders

Telegrams were sent by Herndon yesterday to William Green, John L. Lewis, and other leaders of the American Federation of Labor, calling on them, in defense of the rights of labor, to support a resolution for his freedom in the A. F. of L. convention now going on, and to add their personal requests to those going in direct communications to Governor Talmadge.

The following wire was sent by Herndon to Green, Lewis, Charles Zimmerman, Max Zaritsky, Sidney Hillman, A. Phillip Randolph, and David Dubinsky:

"The decision of the United States Supreme Court refusing to review the merits of my appeal against an 18 to 20 year sentence under the Georgia insurrection law, is a severe blow at labor organization. The issue is now up to Governor Talmadge. I urge you to support the resolution on my case in the convention, and add your personal request for my freedom in a communication to Talmadge."

The I.L.D., and organizations co-operating in the Herndon defense, repeated their appeal to all friends of organized labor, all friends of the Negro people, to redouble their energy in securing signatures, to rush these signatures to the Herndon Petition Committee, to send individual telegrams and resolutions from their organizations to Governor Talmadge, asking Herndon's freedom, and to rush funds to carry on the case to the I.L.D., 80 East Eleventh Street, New York City.