

Hochman Heads Herndon Defense

Julius Hochman, manager of the New York City Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was elected chairman of the New York Joint Committee to Aid the Herndon Defense at an emergency conference at the Hotel Delano Monday night, it was announced yesterday by the Executive Committee of the newly formed committee.

Robert L. Banks, of the New York Civil Liberties Committee, was chosen as temporary secretary. In addition to Hochman and Banks, an executive committee composed of Frank Spector, state secretary of the International Labor Defense; Leo Rosenblum, of the Emergency Committee for Strikers' Relief; George Edward, of the League for Industrial Democracy, and Edith Ransom, Local 22, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was elected.

Four prominent Negro leaders in the labor, religious and liberal world were nominated, one of whom is to be chosen as vice-chairman of the committee.

Unions Participate

Among the organizations participating in the New York Joint Committee are Local 22, I.L.G.W.U.; Journeymen Tailors' Local Union No. 1, and the New York Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, International Labor Defense,

American League Against War and Fascism, League for Industrial Democracy, Progressive Women's Council, Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Workers' Order, Workers' Defense League (formerly Labor and Socialist Defense) and the Young Communist League.

The executive committee was empowered to launch immediate activities which will lead to an Angelo Herndon Convention in New York in the early fall. It was decided that among these activities would be an approach to the trade unions of New York for the calling of a "Free Herndon" mass meeting on Labor Day, Sept. 7. Letters will be addressed to all trade unions in New York appealing for support in the Herndon case. A campaign for signatures to petitions for Herndon's freedom, to bring the present total of a million and a quarter up to two million will be started.

To Petition Talmadge

Special post cards that will assure a steady stream of protests to Governor Talmadge of Georgia from individuals will be distributed, and plans made for wide distribution of a new pamphlet to be issued by the National Committee is composed of the General Defense Committee, International Labor Defense, American Civil Liberties Union, League for Industrial Democracy, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, Na-

tional Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners and the Non-Partisan Defense.

The next meeting of the New York Joint Committee will take place Aug. 10, at which time trade unions will be urged to send representatives. The first regular session of the executive committee will be held Friday, July 10, at Room 405, 112 East 19th Street.

The new campaign to free Angelo Herndon, young Negro who was sentenced to 20 years on the Georgia chain gang because he led the starving unemployed of Atlanta in a successful fight for relief, was made necessary when the Georgia Supreme Court overruled the decision of Judge Hugh M. Dorsey that the slave "insurrection law" under which Herndon was convicted was unconstitutional. The State of Georgia appealed the decision of Judge Dorsey.

Liberals and labor leaders throughout the nation have condemned the Georgia insurrection law as a barbaric relic of slavery, and the American Federation of Labor went on record at its 56th convention as demanding the repeal of this law which is recognized by trade unionists as a constant menace to the rights of organized labor.

The law is so written that it may be used against anyone who is in any way active in labor struggles.