

'Public Opinion' Saved Jacob; Rouse It to Save Krumbein!

By I. Amter

The appeal for parole for Comrade Charles Krumbein has been rejected by the Federal Parole Board. Krumbein has already served nearly eight months of the eighteen-month sentence given him last February. Apparently the Parole Board is determined that Krumbein shall serve the full eighteen months and then endure the four-year parole subsequent to his release.

The final word does not rest with the Parole Board. Only the other day Berthold Jacob, who was seized by Nazi agents in Switzerland and taken to a concentration camp was released. Upon his release he declared: "Only public opinion throughout the world saved me . . . As soon as public opinion was stirred my torture ended."

This statement of Jacob showed what power public opinion has even in Nazi Germany. How powerful it is in the United States has been demonstrated in the Scottsboro, Herndon and numberless other cases. The opinion of the ruling bodies of this and any other capitalist country depends to a great extent on the opinion voiced and organized by the masses.

Krumbein was not released because our voice is not formidable enough. Although very prominent individuals and a number of organizations urged and demanded his release, this is not enough. We

must arouse every workers', farmers', professional organization, etc., in which there is a single fighting person and have them demand Krumbein's release. The sentence imposed on Krumbein is so clearly political on a technical issue that every worker will understand why it was done.

The class struggle demands that every man be at his post. We are deprived of the leadership and co-operation of Krumbein by our capitalist enemies. We need Krumbein—we want him out of prison. But mere wishing will not get him out. Every militant has a job: Get your organization, particularly your union, to adopt a resolution and dispatch it at once to the Federal Parole Board, Washington, D. C. Get your club, veterans' post, and any other organization to do the same. With united forces, we will compel the Parole Board to release Krumbein. As Jacob says: Only public opinion—particularly as expressed through organization—saved him. It will also free Krumbein.