

"Mass Fight Is Way to Win," Says Herndon

By ANGELO HERNDON.

THE present struggle for the rights of Negroes to serve on juries—part of the whole fight for Negro rights—is an historical one. We must guard, however, against falling into the trap of legalistic illusions.

This particular question must carry with it the most simple and thorough explanation of its relation to the every-day struggles of the Negro and white workers. I can remember during my trial, that when the question of exclusion of Negroes from jury service was raised, many workers whom I had the chance to talk with seemed to be under the impression that this fight was one that should be conducted only through the courts.

The main function of the courts is to protect, from every angle, the interests of the capitalists, even though in doing so it may deprive a certain group of the so-called rights which are guaranteed in its own constitution. Especially will these rights be ignored when the class struggle has developed to the point where it is taken into the courts of the U. S. Government. The state and city governments are fully aware of the fact that Negroes are denied their elementary rights, lynched, persecuted and forced to live in actual slavery in the Black Belt of the South. The Roosevelt Hunger Government will go to the same lengths as the Decatur and the Atlanta lynch courts did in denying that Negroes had been systematically excluded from jury service for no other reason than that their skin was black, unless the broadest struggles are conducted to force them to yield to the demands of the workers. It is to the interest of U. S. imperialism, as well as to the southern slave-drivers, to keep the Negro people chained in slavery while they continue to carry on their program of national oppression and economic robbery against the Negro toilers.

THE lynch verdict rendered in Decatur, reflecting the voice of the southern slave masters, should be a most convincing example to the Negro workers that the slave masters will not stop at anything to uphold their system of lynchings, police terror. And that the fight to obtain the elementary rights for the whole Negro people does not lie in the channels of capitalist courts alone but through mass struggle of both white and Negro workers. Never before have such mountains of lies, built up by the slave drivers in the Scottsboro case, been blasted so completely yet in spite of the world of evidence proving the innocence of Patterson, and the other boys, he has again been condemned to die in the electric chair. It so happens that in capitalist courts such questions as those now connected with the Scottsboro case dig down into the very heart of the decaying system of the bosses. Thus they resort to the most brutal and savage methods in order to keep under their heels the whole Negro people.

THE Scottsboro march to Washington for the release of the Scottsboro boys and for the immediate enforcement of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution must be a rousing signal for greater mass struggle to the American workers, for a fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and all victims of national oppression, which will not end until rights for Negro toilers have been achieved. Carry on the fight till the Scottsboro boys and all victims of capitalist oppression are freed!

Carry on the fight for political, economic and social rights for Negro workers!

Fight against the Roosevelt forced labor labor scheme!

For solid unity between white and Negro workers.