

'They Want Twenty Years of My Life'

By ANGELO HERNDON

The Supreme Court of the United States must decide in the immediate future whether or not I am to spend twenty years of my life on the Georgia chain gang.

On July 11th, 1932, I was arrested for organizing a demonstration of a thousand Negro and

white workers before the city and County officials which forced them to appropriate \$6,000 for relief

Since they had no law to frame me on, I was held incommunicado for eleven days without any charge against me. During this time I was chained in my cell with a dead man for twenty-four hours.

They soon found a law that was enacted in 1861 against chattel slaves. No one had ever been tried or indicted under that law before. But in order to smash the organization of the Negro and white workers they indicted me under the same law charging me with "attempting to incite insurrection." On Jan. 16, 1933, I was called before a lynch

court jury for trial. They wanted me to turn yellow and apologize for what I had done in helping to get relief for starving workers and their children. I told them that before I would apologize for doing what I knew was right I would rather have my head cut off.

They went through the farce of a



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the World

works. He has his cooperative store which is reserved for the workers of his factory; there he can buy what food he likes and eat it at home.

And if we take everything that the young Soviet worker consumes today and compare it with what his predecessors ate the difference is indeed astounding. Meat, fish, butter, candy, fruit, etc.—none of these things are rarities for the young worker. Whereas it was not so long ago that such things as butter were quite beyond his reach!

Equality for Girls

In the U. S. S. R. women have equal rights with the men not so much because the Soviet government declared it to be so, but above all because Soviet power has really ensured the freedom of women and at the same time created the conditions for her free development. A girl in the U. S. S. R. has the same number of pleasant prospects in life as a boy. A tremendous number of girls are drawn into work in the factories and plants, into the factory trade schools into the technicums, colleges, and universities.

All these things have done a tremendous amount to improve the health of the younger generation.

trial for three days, and the all white jury found me "guilty" as charged, but recommended that I be saved from death and sentenced me to 18 to 20 years on the chain gang.

The Rev. Solicitor Hudson, prosecutor, asked in the name of the lord that I be sent to my death. He screamed and raved with tears streaming from his eyes and said: "God and every one else will be satisfied if this damnable bolshevik is sent to his death, the lives of our daughters will be protected from this dangerous menace of Communism."

Twenty-six months of constant torture in Fulton Towers followed during which I had been kept in a death house cell where water and excrement would dribble and flow from all directions.

I had to stay in the same cell with men who had been condemned to die. For twenty six months I had to witness the steady parade of human flesh to the electric chair. The jail officials would constantly threaten me with death. I had been so completely starved that I weighed

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only 119 pounds, after being released on bail, although, I weighed 185 when I was first arrested.

To follow up the victory won in securing my temporary release, it is necessary to bombard the U. S. Supreme Court with thousands of telegrams demanding the dismissal of the indictment against me and the abolition of the old slave "insurrection law." It should be clear to every one that not only is the life of Angelo Herndon at stake, but the rights of all workers, and the Negro people in particular, are inextricably bound up in this monstrous frame-up.

The recent victory in the Scottsboro case has been a glowing tribute to the loyalty of the workers, farmers, students and intellectuals of the United States, who fought hectically for 4 years to save the boys from a horrible death. This victory should be an additional incentive to struggle for my complete freedom.

The ruling class of Georgia, has flung it's challenge, our answer must be: An end to discrimination and race hatred; An end to exploitation and suffering; **HERNDON MUST BE FREED!**