

# Krumbein and Herndon Exchange Greetings

## Two Political Prisoners, 1,000 Miles Apart, Declare Common Solidarity Bond—Negro Youth's Letter Withheld by Officials

From political prisoner to political prisoner. This is a kind of correspondence that rarely is written in the United States, where almost every prison has rules forbidding a prisoner to receive mail from any other prisoner, or even from any person who has at any time been a prisoner. In the cases of Angelo Herndon and of Charles Krumbein—young Negro leader and the organizer of the New York district of the Communist Party—in jails more than 1,000 miles apart, this prohibition has been broken through.

From Northeastern Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., Charles Krumbein, Number 2739, serving a sentence on a charge of technical passport violation, Angelo Herndon in Fulton Tower, Atlanta, Ga., received greetings and an inspiring message of solidarity.

### Herndon Replies

Herndon's letter to Krumbein was written, but not delivered. It was returned to him in Fulton Tower by Northeastern Penitentiary. He has asked the International Labor Defense to see that it is published, together with Krumbein's letter to him.

Krumbein's letter follows:

"Dear Angelo:

"I have been following your fight for freedom with the greatest of interest and in the minutest detail, being extremely sorry that I could not actively participate in this struggle as I did in many others. What tremendous scope this fight took on. It embodied every phase of the struggle for Negro liberation, unity of the toiling masses, for workers rights, etc. And rest assured your case awakened new thousands to engage in the struggle for the above issues. Never truer words said than 'If you jail Angelo Herndon thousands of other Angelo Herndons will take his place.'

"Never before (so far as I know) was such mass support rallied around the case of a political prisoner, with the possible exception of Tom Mooney, as in your case. The united front for your release is the broadest ever. And rest assured that with such broad mass support your jailers will not be able to hold you for long, that is, if they refuse to heed the demand for your freedom at present. I'm certain that your supporters will continue fighting until you are released.

### Cites Own Case

"As you know I have now been kept from active participation from that which means our very lives to us, for over nine months (little compared to what you have already suffered and may have to further undergo— but what has made it relatively easy to stand has been the knowledge that the movement goes ever forward with ever growing strength. Also by taking some of

us out of direct participation those that remain outside increase their activity, because of what happened to us, so that it makes up for our absence many times over. Such are the 'rules' of the class-struggle—we become more and more effective and the enemy becoming panic stricken, jails some of us with the above mentioned results.

"Angelo, dear comrade, I need not ask you to keep a stout heart. You have already proven that you are a true representative of your class and your people. I only hope you will be free soon and that your health holds out. With the warmest comradely love,

"CHAS. KRUMBEIN, No. 2739."

Angelo Herndon's answer, not delivered, follows:

"Dear Charlie:

"Your most welcome and encouraging letter came today—and I don't have to tell you that it made me feel happy to have such a letter coming from you.

"The hearing in my case has been held—but the Judge reserved his decision until later. I am never optimistic about what they will do—as always, I am still hoping for the best. To me it was the same age-old red scare. The prosecution's whole argument was about 'receiving instructions from Moscow' and 'proletarian revolution.' Seymour and the other lawyers did a good job. So now the real battle has just begun.

"I wanted to write you more when I was still out—but you know how it is when you have a thousand and one things to do—and they all must be done. At all of my meetings throughout the country—I always used your case as an example to show what kind of a one-sided democracy we have in this country. I do hope that you will soon be out and on the battle front again. We need all people like you on the outside—and here's hoping you the best.

"Will write again soon.

"Your comrade in arms—

"ANGELO HERNDON."

Bigger efforts to pile up the second million signatures to the petition to Governor Talmade to free Herndon and repeal the Georgia insurrection law have been urged by the International Labor Defense. Decision on a writ sought by the I.L.D. to free Herndon, on which argument was had before Judge Hugh M. Dorsey in Atlanta on November 12, has not yet been handed down.