

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE FIGHT FOR MY FREEDOM

By ANGELO HERNDON

Today—May 20, 1935—the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the cruel decision of the lynchers' courts of Georgia, to send me to the chain-gang for 18 to 20 years.

By means of a hundred or so legal phrases out of the dead past—which they have misapplied for their own purposes—they are trying to rivet steel chains around my ankles and shackle me to the chain-gang.

What does the Supreme Court mean by this decision? Do you think they are striking a blow only against me, against Angelo Herndon? Against a 22-year-old boy?

No! What the Supreme Court has done by upholding the sentence against me, is to strike a blow at the whole working-class, at the Negro people, at all those who are hungry and demand bread, at all those who are homeless and demand a roof to sleep under.

The Supreme Court would not interfere with the Georgia insurrection law. They would not take up the question of the constitutionality of a law of pre-civil war days, that forbade the stirring up of the slaves to revolt. They are willing to hide behind long words and legal technicalities to let this law stand on the statute books.

You know how before the Civil War, brave men and women would help the slaves to escape over the Underground Railway. When these men and women were caught, they would be arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, one of the most shameful laws the United States has ever had on its books. And when a case was taken before the United States Supreme Court, involving the Fugitive Slave law, the Supreme Court refused to interfere. They said that "a Negro has no rights that a white man is bound to respect."

That terrible decision has stood as a shame to our nation. But I saw that the decision that was handed down in the Supreme Court today, on my case, is another "Dred Scott" decision—the "Dred Scott" decision of the twentieth century.

Some people may think: the Supreme Court has spoken, and that is the end of the Herndon case. But I want you to remember this: in 1916, all the legal steps had been completed to hang Tom Mooney. Tom Mooney was going to swing by the neck because he had organized the workers. But the workers said "NO!" They said it so loud that the President of the United States in

his Executive Mansion was forced to interfere. And Tom Mooney did not hang.

Friends, this is only the beginning of the Herndon fight. I myself, Angelo Herndon—am only one person. But in my fight are involved the most simple human rights of the working-class and the Negro people. Is this worth fighting for?

We can make the Supreme Court change its mind! We who have followed the leadership of the I.L.D. have done so much, and it is only a token of our strength! When I was sick in the hell-hole of Fulton Tower Prison, the I.L.D. and its hundreds of thousands of supporters and sympathizers took up the challenge of the Georgia officials, and raised \$15,000 in bail that I might be free for a time at least.

But we must have speed, speed! Flood the Supreme Court at Washington with your protests. Demand a re-hearing of the case! Workers! You saved Tom Mooney from the noose! You can save me from the chain-gang and smash the lynchers' slave-law.

Some of the International Defense material on the Gastonia case.

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Orgaan van de
 Internationale Roode Hulp (I.R.H.)
 Afdeling HOLLAND.

**Heraus zur
 Protestkundgebung!**
 Donnerstag, den 2. September, abends 8 Uhr.
 in der Warteck, Aarau

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
 "REDS" & POLICE
 IN
 A STREET CONFLICT.
 WILD SCENES AT
 VICTORIA.
 ATTEMPT TO REACH
 U.S. EMBASSY.
 MOUNTED OFFICERS
 ENGAGED.
 THREE ARRESTS.
 NIGHT GUARD AT EMBASSY.

GASTONIA
 Rally to Trafalgar Square
 PROTEST DEMONSTRATION
 Sunday, October 27th, at 3 p.m.

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