

Congratulations On The Herndon VICTORY



Above: Chained and shackled, beaten and driven. Herndon was saved from this fate—but chain-gangs have yet to be wiped out.

Congressman John T. Bernard

Minnesota—Farmer Labor

Angelo Herndon is free. A heavy load has been lifted from millions of hearts. In every country of the world there are men and women who knew that the chain gang for Herndon meant stronger links in their own chains.

I salute the Victory Issue of the Labor Defender and the fine work of the International Labor Defense for the freedom of Angelo Herndon. During the long years when Herndon's case dragged through the courts the International Labor Defense led the campaign for justice and against the slave statute of Georgia. This campaign proved that the mass protests of all progressive people make the best advocate for freedom, in court as out of it.

Herndon's victory in the Supreme Court is but an echo of other victories at the polls and in the factories. But it is a victory won by too narrow a margin. The minority decision of the four reactionaries on the bench leaves no doubt in our minds that the fight is only just begun. As a representative in Congress I urge all those who worked for Herndon's liberty to carry on and support the President's proposal for a reformed court as the only assurance that the people may expect other court victories in the future.

Congressman John M. Coffee

Washington—Democrat

I take this opportunity of joining with other Americans in hailing the decision of the United States Supreme Court which set aside the verdict in the case of Angelo Herndon. Those who love the true American tradition have fought valiantly against the determined forces of oppression, persecution and race hatred to achieve at last this monumental victory. The forces of public opinion have been slowly but surely mustered in mighty protest against the legal and official actions which invoked an un-American state law to arrest and sentence Angelo Herndon to many years in prison for the mere exercise of his civil and constitutional rights. This protest has played a part in finally winning freedom

for Herndon. I congratulate Angelo Herndon on his unrelenting and finally successful fight for liberty. I congratulate all the defense groups and persons who were identified with this great campaign to obtain justice.

In the Herndon case one battle has been won. There are other battles left to fight in defense of similar victims of undemocratic and fascist-like forces in American life. I pledge anew my support for the continuing struggle we must maintain in order to make certain the finer aspects of American democracy will be safely preserved against all those who seek to destroy them.

Congressman Usher L. Burdick

North Dakota—Republican

The Herndon decision by the Supreme Court was another mile stone in the progress of human freedom. Without free speech and a free press there can be no government maintained that will respond to the wishes of the people. Public opinion is the greatest weapon possessed by the people in maintaining popular government. Public opinion is more powerful than armies and navies.

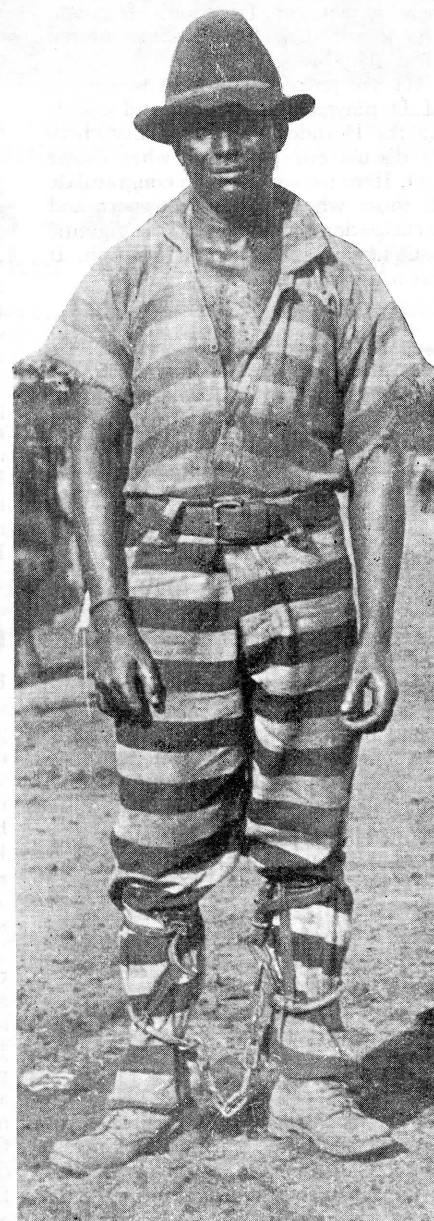
A great debt of gratitude will ever be owed by the American people to those members and supporters of the Herndon Committee who fought for five years, without pay, to save the life and liberty of this one man. In doing this noble work these citizens have made secure to all in this country, their right of free speech. The Supreme Court of the United States responded nobly to the wishes and prayers of a free people.

Congressman Matthew A. Dunn

Pennsylvania—Democrat

I am mighty glad that the Supreme Court of the United States rendered a favorable decision in the interest of Mr. Angelo Herndon, the colored gentleman who was sentenced to a hellish prison in the State of Georgia because he had the courage to champion the rights of his fellowmen.

Men of all colors, creeds and nationalities have subjected themselves to unbearable torture and have sacrificed their lives for the



Congressman Dunn has a bill to abolish such savagery against human beings. Get your congressman to support it.

welfare of Humanity. Religious, national and race hatred are responsible for a great deal of the ignorance and superstition prevailing throughout the world and is causing the human race unnecessary suffering. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when these social evils will be banished from the earth!

Congressman Emanuel Celler

New York—Democrat

I wish to state that I am pleased to have been of help in the Angelo Herndon case.

While I disagree most emphatically with his political opinions, nevertheless, I deem it very important to have him vindicated in order that he may be permitted to express himself. I repeat with Voltaire that "I may disagree utterly with what you say, but I shall fight to the death for your right to say it."

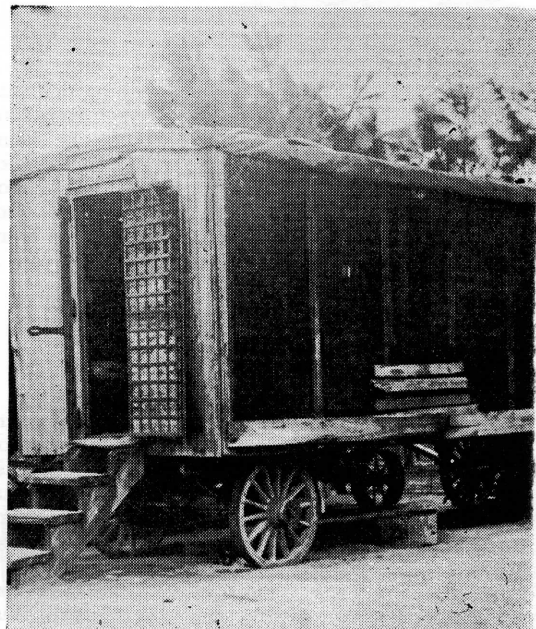
al Labor Defense, displayed a fine militancy in this struggle and deserves the fullest support from all progressive people.

The success in freeing Herndon should encourage the masses to re-double their efforts to free Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro boys, Thaelmann, J. B. McNamara, the Kentucky miners, and the many other political prisoners now languishing in jails. It should give renewed strength to the movement to wipe off the statute books the criminal syndicalism laws that disgrace the country.

John P. Davis

Secretary, National Negro Congress

The International Labor Defense deserves the gratitude of the Negro people and of all progressive people in America for its brilliant victory in the case of Angelo Herndon. This victory confirms the wisdom of the use of mass pressure and indicates the grave need for



Above: Georgia authorities' idea of ideal living conditions for prisoners. They had the worst chain-gang in Georgia—in the turpentine swamps—all picked out for Angelo Herndon. These cages house 12 men. The bunks are of steel and in three tiers. Sanitation and hygiene don't exist. Prison officials say: "We keep our men in the open air."



Left: John L. Spivack got this picture on a Georgia chain-gang. The boy is being punished for "talking back."! Such punishments are common and were intended for Angelo Herndon for 18 to 20 years! Public opinion in Georgia, as well as throughout the country, forced chain-gang officials to abolish the use of stocks as punishment. They have not yet abolished the use of guns, whips, blows with rifle-butts, cages, miserable food—and chain-gangs themselves!

William Z. Foster

Chairman, Communist Party

The action of the United States Supreme Court in declaring unconstitutional the Georgia Insurrection Law and freeing Angelo Herndon, constitutes an important victory, not only for the cause of civil rights generally, but especially for the masses of oppressed Negro people in this country. The only way the reactionary Supreme Court could be brought around to make such a decision was under the force of mass pressure. It just goes to show what the united forces of democracy can do when they only set out in a determined manner to do it, and build themselves a solid united front for the purpose.

The International Labor Defense is especially to be congratulated on the outcome of this case. It has been the leader and the real backbone of the whole united front struggle for the release of Herndon ever since his arrest. As in many other cases, the International

reforming the Supreme Court so that the fate of such fighters of the working class as Angelo Herndon will never again be permitted to hang in the balance, depending on the judgement of one man. The Herndon case should mark the beginning of a nation-wide struggle of Negro people for the basic citizenship rights guaranteed them by the Constitution and its Amendments. In the struggle ahead we shall look for the International Labor Defense to continue to play a significant role.

John L. Spivack

Ace journalist, chain-gang "authority"

Angelo Herndon's release is a historic victory for mass tactics, policies, for labor as well as for the victims of labor activities. Without the I.L.D. leading the fight and the countless thousands throughout the United States who let their opinions be known in demanding that Herndon be saved from the

living death on a Georgia Chain-gang, Herndon today would probably be a dead man.

But, great and important as this victory is, its real importance lies in showing us that it can be done. There are plenty of other political prisoners for whom the same tactics and keen legal counsel are needed. So with the knowledge of what has been done, more power to the I.L.D. leadership to continue doing the same for the other class war prisoners.

Upton Sinclair

It is of the utmost importance that the effort to strangle working class agitation throughout the country should be balked, and this applies especially to the South, where the labor problem is complicated because of racial prejudices. On this account I join in your rejoicing about the Herndon case. I never had the pleasure of meeting him, but from what I have read about him, he has conducted himself effectively and with dignity.

William L. Patterson

By cable

Warmest congratulations to all participants in the struggle for freedom of Herndon. Fight for democratic rights can be won. Mooney, Billings, the Scottsboro Boys, McNamara and all other victims of anti-democratic forces next. Forward to greater victories. Deplore illness which keeps me from personally carrying on the fight with you.

Ann Burlak

Textile organizer, one of the Atlanta Six

Angelo Herndon is free! The infamous insurrection law which was used to imprison over a score of Negro and white workers in Georgia has been declared unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court. All southern labor can rejoice in Angelo Herndon's freedom!

This victory means more than the freedom of one Negro boy, who dared to raise his voice in the interests of the unemployed and exploited workers in Atlanta, Georgia. Herndon's freedom means a big step forward in the struggle for Negro liberation nationally. It is a staggering body blow at the whole putrid jim crow and lynch system of the south. Herndon's freedom is a victory for all of southern labor—Negro and white.

We must not forget that the same insur-

rection law which was used to sentence Angelo Herndon to the chain gang, was also used against 6 Negro and white organizers in 1930 (the Atlanta Six); then again in 1933 against 18 members of the International Workers Order, and again in 1934 against a southern white girl who dared to lead a picket line in the general textile strike. This insurrection law was held as an ax over the head of any worker, Negro or white, who dared to organize and demand decent living conditions in Georgia.

Today I, as one of the Atlanta Six, can say that we rejoice together with Angelo Herndon. Angelo Herndon has been greatly responsible for this victory because of the courageous stand he took at the trial and during the five years it took to win this case. Angelo Herndon, you are a worthy son of the American working class, and we are proud of you.

This victory means that now the organization of the tens of thousands of textile workers into the CIO can go ahead with seven league boots. This victory will give more confidence, more determination to the bitterly exploited textile workers to join the CIO and establish for themselves higher wages, shorter hours, and decent working conditions. FORWARD TO MORE VICTORIES FOR SOUTHERN LABOR. FORWARD TO 100% UNIONIZED SOUTH.

Arthur Garfield Hays

Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union

The Angelo Herndon victory was a significant step in the fight for civil liberties. Vague, general statutes have been, for generations, the simplest method for governments to "get" a man whom they want to put out of the way. In the well-known "Harvester" and other cases, criminal laws have been held unconstitutional under which men might "guess" themselves into jail. It is about time that a "sedition" statute was thrown out on the same ground. The International Labor Defense and Whitney Seymour deserve the gratitude of every man who believes in liberty and democracy for their magnificent and successful fight in this case.

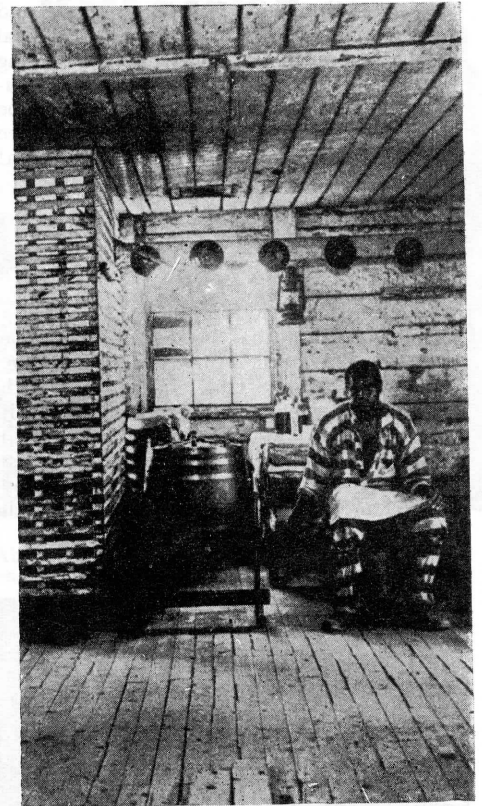
Ted Poston

Negro journalist, New York Post

My own part in the fight for Angelo Herndon has been so small that I am reluctant to accept an honor which thousands of others so richly deserve. Surely others are more qualified to comment on the significance of the campaign and its glorious outcome.

If my numerous stories and interviews with Herndon contributed anything to the success of the fight, the credit is his and not mine. For, of the hundreds of persons I have interviewed in my capacity as a newspaper reporter, none has had a firmer grasp or a better understanding of the factors affecting his particular case than Herndon. To talk to Herndon was to allow him to write his own story.

One fact does impress me however about the long struggle. It is important that the masses were able to keep faith with Herndon. Surely no political prisoner ever had more faith in the ultimate victory of the masses than this courageous youth. And his final



A chain-gang barracks in Georgia. This is an "improvement" over cages. The Herndon campaign helped expose these evils.

vindication and freedom cannot be interpreted otherwise than as a victory for mass pressure. With Herndon liberated, the masses will have more heart to fight for Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro Boys and countless other victims of class persecution.

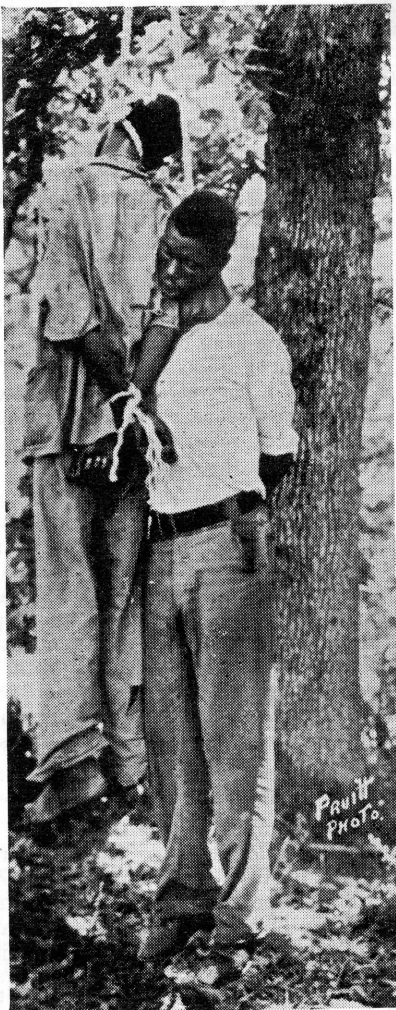
One would not detract from the victory by recognizing that it was only one skirmish in a continuous warfare. Herndon himself was one of the first to accept this fact. But the struggle for others will be easier now that Herndon may take his place in the ranks.

Edwin Berry Burgum

Professor N.Y.U., Officer American Federation of Teachers

The series of trials to which Angelo Herndon was subjected reveal glaringly the archaisms of our legal system. A statute of doubtful validity at any time, passed to meet one set of circumstances, remains on the books, and is revived almost a century later to be applied to a quite different set of circumstances. Under such procedure the "law" becomes the tool of unscrupulous politicians and petti-fogging lawyers; an immense obstacle in the way of justice for the common man.

But the case shows that even the most gross iniquity can be undone by the pressure of an aroused public opinion. It proves that public opinion can become the law, which is what, in an educated enlightened society, it ought to be. Meanwhile all praise to the intended victim, who never flinched, and gave us a fine example of manhood, the first, I believe, in which a Negro emerged as accepted hero among whites and blacks alike.



Lynch law still reigns in the State of Georgia. Support the federal anti-lynching legislation now blocked in a Senate Committee.

A. Philip Randolph

International President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

Just a word to express my regret that my engagement here in writing a wage agreement for Pullman porters with the Pullman Company and the National Mediation Board prevented my writing a statement concerning the great victory achieved by mass pressure of the workers and the lovers of liberty in America in the liberation of Angelo Herndon through the United States Supreme Court Decision.

I am glad to say that the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters did its part, not only in helping to create mass sentiment against the Slave Insurrection Law, under which Angelo Herndon was persecuted and threatened to be sent to the chain-gang, but it also gave its mite in money to help meet the expenses of the great fight. This victory should encourage the workers and the militant forces that are fighting for the preservation of democracy to fight on with renewed determination, since only through mass action will it be possible to preserve the democratic institutions from the blight and menace of Fascism.

From the U. S. S. R.

By cable

Warm proletarian greetings to you, Angelo Herndon, personally. The outstanding victory in the case of heroic fighter snatched from the cruel hands of the southern capitalists was won by the united front of workers and progressives stop mighty demonstration here May 1 stop rejoice in the victory of socialism and the Stalinist Constitution guarantee defeat world fascism stop forward in the fight for freedom Thaelmann, Mooney and all class war prisoners and victims of fascism stop.

THAELMANN FOREIGN WORKERS CLUB—*Anglo-American Section*

Hubert Herring

Executive Director, Comm. on Cultural Relations with Latin America

I wish to add my word of congratulation upon the significant victory in the case of Angelo Herndon. This is one of the most heartening steps in the long fight for fair dealing with the Negro.

George S. Schuyler

Negro journalist, Pittsburgh Courier

The successful culmination of the long and skillful campaign waged for the release of Angelo Herndon is gratifying to all who admire high courage and are working for a better world. This is an event of great significance in the history of American Labor because it strengthens and encourages those seeking to change society.

This campaign served as an example of that persistence, legal knowledge and propaganda accompaniment so essential to successful labor defense, to the procuring of the pecuniary sinews of legal warfare, and to

the breaking down of prejudices against advanced working class action.

This campaign served to definitely prepare the way for a wider assault on the prevailing Georgia reactionism whose outward expression is lynching, jim-crowism, police terror, starvation, degradation and death.

This campaign served to bring to the fore a young laborite of sterling courage whose message has inspired and will continue to inspire other young workers to follow in his footsteps. Angelo Herndon's eager readiness to risk martyrdom for his beliefs and for the working class is in the best revolutionary tradition.

Rev. William Lloyd Imes

Negro Minister, N. Y.

The news of the victory for Angelo Herndon is received with real joy by all good citizens of America, regardless of race, creed or politics.

As long as young Mr. Herndon could be treated with the vilest of contempt by an unfair and evil use of an utterly "dead" law, so long could every other person's liberties be in jeopardy.

Now we have at least the faint glimmering of a new era of human justice. All good wishes to him for his splendid fight!

Frank X. Martel

President Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor

The valiant fight made by the Labor Defenders and other agencies for the life and liberty of Angelo Herndon was a splendid example of persistent loyalty in the interests of a very worthy cause.

Frustration of the efforts of reactionary forces to use antiquated law, such as was done in the Herndon case, for the purpose of silencing the rising voice of Labor, will serve notice on all and sundry that despite all forms of oppression the citizens of this country will fight for the right to live in decency.

American Labor must come to the defense of persecuted workers, black or white, until the industrial overlords of America abandon the malicious practice of attempting to imprison or kill those who would raise their voices against oppression.

Tom Mooney

Congratulations to you I.L.D. and to Angelo Herndon on your wonderful victory in the United States Supreme Court. Would like to have a copy of that opinion when you get hold of it. Give Angelo my warmest comradely greetings.

J. B. McNamara

The news of the Herndon decision was certainly the most welcome and the most treasured received here. I know the decision gladdened the hearts of all the lovers of the speed of progress, but I hope it did not relax their vigilance on the lofty aims, ideals and purposes of life which they cherish. I am deeply

Angelo Herndon organized a demonstration in Atlanta to win relief and bread for him and his white brothers. The Supreme Court was finally "convinced" that this was not unconstitutional!

thankful to the National office of the International Labor Defense for its efforts to march abreast with the speed of progress because the I.L.D. represents all the lovers of the speed of progress for the common good of all human kind. In plain words I shared in the joyous news of a marvelous victory with all class conscious workers. I don't think you will disagree with me if I say here and now: the victory did not happen, it was brought about. My paper hand, and nothing withheld to comrade Herndon and all the members of his yet oppressed race.