

Angelo Herndon's Story of Treatment In Fulton Tower

(As told to Ben Davis, Jr.)

(Conclusion)

No outside visitors are allowed to see Herndon, although visiting of other prisoners is indiscriminately permitted. Any day white visitors are allowed to bring in packages to white prisoners. A Negro once went down to see Herndon on the "colored visiting day" but the jailer told him: "You'll have to come after hours to see that nigger Herndon," although it is very obvious that if a Negro visitor is not permitted to visit during the regular hours that he will not be admitted after hours. Even when fruit is left at the prison for Herndon, the guards slice the bananas in halves and crush the oranges under the guise of preventing any weapons from being smuggled into Herndon. However, the effect of this practice is to make the fruit unfit for use when it reaches Herndon. Either it is spoiled or too badly damaged.

THE terror against Herndon also extends to his attorneys. The jailer, Bob Holland, refuses to permit private consultation to attorneys, since the Supreme Court decision. When we inquired about literature sent to Herndon, the jailer said Asst. Solicitor John Hudson had taken it all. Asst. Hudson is a fanatic on "insurrectio nary" literature and derives a fiendish glee from procuring indictments on this old slave law.

It is very plain that since the State has been thwarted in its efforts to have Herndon sent out to the chain-gang that it has brought its chain-gang tactics into Fulton Tower. Every possible means of communication with Herndon from the outside world is very uncertain. His mail is arbitrarily held up; he receives nothing to read; his attorneys are not allowed to consult with him as attorneys.

I asked Herndon whether he knew of the tremendous May Day celebrations throughout the United States. He stated: "I haven't read a word about May Day. They won't let me have anything about it to read."

Courage Firm Despite Increased Torture

I also asked whether he had any suggestions about how to improve conditions for him in jail. He replied that "every effort ought to be intensified to establish a special status for political prisoners. I think that if a delegation could be organized to come here and visit me, demanding that I be permitted to read literature such as I want, it would help a great deal."

Despite the increase of torture against Herndon since the Supreme Court ruling, he remains a sturdy, rugged revolutionary leader. Only twenty-one years old, he stands as one of the most remarkable leaders of the international working class movement, a type that only the working class could bring forth. His courage grows daily. He is objective to the most minute significance of his imprisonment—never whimpering, but always realizing that his case is but the monstrous attack of the ruling landlords and industrialists of the South on the Negro peoples and the working class as a whole.



Angelo Herndon