

250 E. 43rd St.,
(19th floor)
New York, N. Y.
June 3, 1935

Honorable Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes,
United States Supreme Court,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Justice Hughes:

We, the undersigned, wish respectfully to urge the United States Supreme Court to reconsider the appeal of Angelo Herndon, Georgia negro under sentence of eighteen to twenty years on a chain gang under an obsolete Georgia statute which is a denial of the traditional and constitutional American right of free speech.

Herndon's "crime", according to reliable reports, seems to have been that of attempting to organize a union consisting of white and negro sharecroppers. For his attempt to improve the conditions of workers living in a state of virtual peonage, Herndon was indicted under an antiquated law forbidding the possession of "seditious" literature.

This seems to us too vital an issue to be sidetracked on legal technicalities. We believe it would be little short of a disgraceful miscarriage of justice for this youth to be condemned to the brutalities of a feudal penal system just because his ideas are unpleasant to the ruling barons in Georgia. But, in addition to the irreparable harm done the individual, there is the fact that Georgia officials have frankly admitted that if the charges against Herndon are sustained, prosecutions will be instituted against numerous others, some of whom are already under indictment. This would be a mockery of "equal justice under law" which we cannot believe you and your Honorable Associates will ever permit.

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Miriam Manolen
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