

George Schuyler Does His Bit to Aid Lynchers

Negro Columnist Writes That Herndon Will Skip His Bail

By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—“At this crucial point in my fight, you have stabbed me in the back. . . . Just as you repeatedly knifed the Scottsboro boys by sneering at the mass fight for their freedom, so you attempt to knife me also.”

This is the charge made by Angelo Herndon in a telegram sent to George Schuyler, Negro columnist of the Pittsburgh Courier, unofficial mouthpiece of the N.A.A.C.P. leadership and the “New Deal” Administration.

The telegram is an indignant protest to Schuyler’s slanderous insinuation that Herndon, Negro hero of the Atlanta, Georgia, “insurrection” trial, will betray the faith of the white and Negro workers who loaned their pennies and dollars to free him, pending appeal, by running away from the fight. In his column of Aug. 25, Schuyler said: “Herndon is out on bail and will probably skip it like the rest.”

Schuyler Sends Cynical Reply

In a letter received by Herndon yesterday, Schuyler makes light of his vicious attack on the heroic Negro fighter against starvation and Jim-Crow oppression. The full text of Herndon’s wire and Schuyler’s reply follows:

“In your Pittsburgh Courier column of Aug. 25, you say: ‘Herndon is out on bail and will probably skip it like the rest.’

“Just as you repeatedly knifed

the Scottsboro boys by sneering at the mass fight for their freedom, so you attempt to knife me also. After thousands of workers and sympathizers have worked, sacrificed, and actually suffered to get together the \$15,000 demanded by the Georgia lynchers for my bail, you announce that I will skip this bail. At this crucial point in my fight, you stab me in the back in an attempt to destroy the confidence the workers have in me.

“While I was in jail you did not move a finger to help: You never wrote a line to speed the collection of bail. Your statement about me has the effect of an invitation to the Georgia lynchers to revoke the bail. This is a police agent’s action.

“No doubt your attack on me will win the approbation of the lynch press of Georgia, just as your attack on the Scottsboro boys has already won the approbation of the Alabama lynch press.

“I shall not skip the bail which the workers have collected for me. If and when the time comes I shall return to Georgia ready to continue the fight.”

Schuyler’s Reply

To which Schuyler replied: “Your telegram at hand. The capitalists have been so derelict in their duty that I have not sufficient funds to reply by wire as I would like to do. Knowing something of the technique of propaganda, I presume your wire was sent in order to serve as basis for a ‘news’ release.

“My good friend, I admire your courage though deploring your judgment, anent returning to Georgia. If you should skip your bail as have

the other Communist brothers fallen afoul of the law, I would be the first to laud your good sense. Such courage as yours is so rare among your comrades that it is well worth \$15,000 to have you at liberty. I trust that you will ultimately win your case so that you may satisfy your ambition to return to Georgia and win over the black and white proletariat for Communism.

“Come up, to quote Mae West, and see me some time. I am always ‘at home’ to distinguished visitors. Bring my good friend Ben Davis with you.”

In the eyes of this toady of the white ruling class, who has sold out his people, and that at so low a price that he allegedly has not the price of a telegram, Herndon is a fool for fighting for the rights of the Negro people, and against unemployment and starvation. It is so much safer to be an agent of the lynch rulers! And the boss press pays nicely for articles attacking the Scottsboro defense and defending American imperialists in their plundering of the Liberian people!

It would be good sense, Schuyler says, for Herndon to run away from the fight by skipping his bail, “like the other Communist brothers fallen afoul of the law.” Schuyler cannot name these Communists. Are they the Atlanta Six—four white and two Negro organizers—who have repeatedly shown their readiness to go back to Atlanta to face trial (despite the threat of death in the electric chair for the “crime” of organizing black and white workers together)? Are they the hundreds of Negro and white Communists arrested in the West Coast terror. Mr. Schuyler? Or the hundreds of

In Private Letter He Urges Negro Hero To Flee Fight

others jailed in strike and unemployment relief struggles throughout the country? And out on bail, many of them awaiting trial for leading the working-class in its fight against hunger and fascist terror, for the right to organize, for their immediate demands and the coming struggle for Soviet power?

And does Mr. Scuyler for a moment believe that Negro working class heroes like Herndon and his attorney, Ben Davis, will ever fraternize with shameless lackeys and assistant lynchers of the lynch rulers?

The complete text of an open letter by Herndon to Schuyler will be published in tomorrow’s Daily Worker.

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COMRADE wishes room in comradesly atmosphere. Possibly in Yorkville. Box 50, care of Daily Worker.

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