

A Hero and a Judas Confront Each Other: Herndon vs. Schuyler

Angelo Herndon's Heroic Defiance of Lynchers Enrages George Schuyler, Boot-Licking Lackey of Lynch Rulers

By CYRIL BRIGGS

While every honest Negro and white person hails the magnificent heroism of Angelo Herndon and vies to pay honor to this young Negro hero of the Atlanta, Ga., "insurrection" trial, Herndon's courageous defiance of the lynch rulers evokes only rage and slander from that despicable tool of the ruling class, George Schuyler, Negro Judas and columnist of the Pittsburgh Courier, unofficial mouthpiece of the N.A.A.C.P. leadership and the "New Deal" administration.

"Herndon has dared to defy us and make the impudent, blatant statement of the hardened revolutionist," screamed Assistant Prosecutor Walter LeCraw, brother of the president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, at the Atlanta "trial" and demanded death in the electric chair for this heroic fighter against jim-crow oppression and starvation. The indignant protests of the working class saved Herndon from the electric chair. The lynchers, however, sought to achieve his murder by the less dramatic means of torture on the notorious Georgia chain gang.

Lynch Lords in New Offensive

The working class responded to the courage of this fearless Negro leader. White and Negro workers engaged in the utmost sacrifices to provide the exorbitant \$15,000 bail demanded for Herndon's release, pending appeal against the atrocious sentence of 18 to 20 years on the chain gang. By their protests and sacrifices they have temporarily rescued Herndon. But Herndon is not yet completely free. The sinister threat of torture and death on the chain gang still hangs over this heroic Negro leader.

The lynch rulers, taken by surprise by the splendid demonstration of the solidarity of white and Negro workers in raising Herndon's bail in the incredible short time of 20 days, have now rallied their forces for a counter attack. George Schuyler squirms into the limelight as the chief assistant lyncher in this attack.

Schuyler knows that an additional \$15,000 must be raised immediately by the International Labor Defense to carry the Herndon and Scottsboro appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court. Unless this is done, and the mass fight intensified, Herndon will be murdered on the chain gang, the Scottsboro boys will be burned in the electric chair. So George Schuyler tries to sabotage the campaign for this fund. His method is to attempt to undermine the confidence of the workers in Herndon. In his column in the Pittsburgh Courier of Aug. 25, this renegade Negro makes the slanderous insinuation that Herndon will betray the confidence of those who loaned their last pennies to secure his release on bail:

"Herndon is out on bail (and will probably skip it, like the rest)

Herndon Has No Fear of the Lynchers

In the face of Herndon's fearless conduct in the court of the enemy, Schuyler dares make this slanderous insinuation. Herndon went into the South determined to organize white and Negro workers together in joint struggles against their common oppressors. That he knew what to expect at the hands of the brutal ruling class is clearly shown in his ringing defiance to the lynch rulers during his "trial":

"You may do what you will with Angelo Herndon. You may indict him. You may put him in jail. But there will come thousands of Angelo Herndons. If you want to really do anything about the case, you must go out

and indict the social system. But this you will not do, for your role is to defend the system under which the toiling masses are robbed and oppressed."

George Schuyler—Assistant Lyncher

Schuyler's role is also to defend that system—the system of jim-crow oppression and robbery of the Negro masses, of white supremacy and accompanying degradation and exploitation of the toiling white masses, of unemployment, hunger, fascist terror and imperialist war. Like King Canute, Schuyler and other reformist Negro misleaders vainly attempt to stem the rising tide of resistance on the part of the oppressed Negro masses to imperialism, desperately seek to shatter the growing unity of Negro and white workers in the fight for the liberation of the Negro people and the emancipation of the whole working class.

Schuyler attacks the Communist Party which is organizing and leading that struggle and successfully rallying the white masses to the defense of the Negro people. To Schuyler, the Communists waging this fight are all lunatics. But, significantly, George Padmore, who abandons the fight and adopts a program of compromise and betrayal of the Negro masses, gains the status of a hero in Schuyler's eyes—"George Padmore . . . a brilliant young radical. . . ." For Schuyler and his kind, the traitor Padmore is the hero, not Angelo Herndon, the fearless fighter of the working class and Negro masses.

No Slander Too Cheap for Schuyler

It is clear that anyone who can descend to Schuyler's cheap slander of heroic Angelo Herndon and, like Schuyler, can chortle with glee at the prospect of the Scottsboro Boys being "fried in the electric chair" is not above engaging in any slander and lies against the fighters for Negro liberation. It is, therefore, not surprising that Schuyler attacks as "opportunists" and "Uncle Toms" (!) every Negro leader of the Communist Party, or that he peddles the lie that Otto Huiswood, Richard B. Moore and Cyril Briggs "were thrown out of the Garvey burlesque," when he well knows that these comrades were never members of the Garvey movement, that from the very first they relentlessly exposed Garvey's program as reactionary and utopian. And at a time when Schuyler and his then associates, Randolph and Owen, were flirting with Garvey in the speculation that it might be financially profitable for them to get into the "Garvey burlesque."

Through the Crusader Magazine, of which I was editor, and the African Blood Brotherhood, a militant organization based on the class and national struggle, Moore, Huiswood and Briggs carried on the fight for clarity on the Negro liberation struggle, against Garvey's confused and utopian program and its reactionary attributes of black imperialism. All three of us were members of the then illegal Communist Party, and worked as the leading Communist fraction in the A. B. B., despite Schuyler's slanderous lie that "although there was a Communist Party then, they did not belong to it because their eyes were glued on Africa where they hoped one day to sit regally on the backs of the black workers."

Schuyler knows the facts. But truth means nothing to this creature of the lynch lords who has sunk so low in the filth of treachery as to slander and attack the heroic Angelo Herndon and the mass fight for the safety and freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.