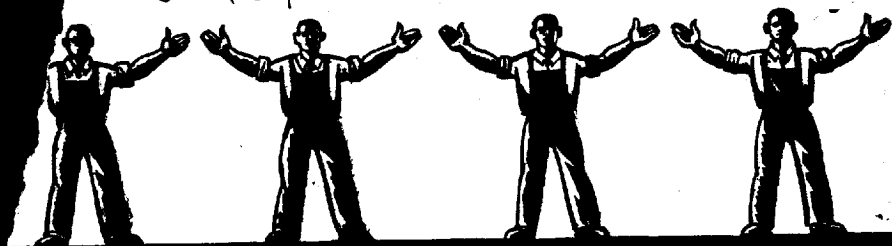


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**THE
SCOTTSBORO
BOYS**

*Four Freed!
Five To Go!*

by **ANGELO HERNDON**



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THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS:

Four Freed!

Five to Go!

By ANGELO HERNDON

EUGENE WILLIAMS, Roy Wright, Willie Roberson and Olen Montgomery are free! Let this victory and great cause for jubilation hasten on the struggle for the freedom of the other five boys.

Six years of unyielding struggle of the Negro people, of their supporters, and of friends of democracy and justice the world over—in the U. S. A., London, Moscow, Berlin, Cuba, Mexico and Spain—have wrenched from the hands of Alabama's feudal despots four more intended victims of the rope and faggot.

Congratulations, International Labor Defense, the Communist Party, and the Young Communist League. Congratulations to the organizations of the united Scottsboro Defense Committee, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), the I.L.D., the Methodist Federation for Social Service and the American Civil Liberties Union. You have scored a smash-hit victory for Negro rights and the preservation of civil liberties.

We of the Young Communist League are proud that we have played a leading role in this noble cause for justice and democracy. In expressing our greetings to the Scottsboro boys and their defenders, we pledge our continued efforts in mobilizing every possible force in the fight for the freedom of the other five. We shall be ever vigilant in bringing to the consciousness of all youth the shameful crime of Scottsboro. We will leave no stone unturned in the fight for the liberation of the Negro people from the rule of Southern landlord oppression.

Alabama's attempt to perpetuate the slave system by framing nine Negroes met with universal opposition from those who have been outraged by this crude type of injustice. The liberty-loving people of the world chorused in repeated determination: *The Scottsboro boys shall not die!* The hundreds and thousands of mass meetings, demonstrations and other dramatic actions struck a ringing blow at Alabama's system of human bondage. The compelling force generated through the organized might of millions wrung from their bloodstained hands this glorious, but partial, victory.

On July 25, 1937, after six long years of endless and tireless work for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, the news which flashed around the world that four of the boys had been freed came as a thunderbolt of joy and happiness to the hearts of millions. In Harlem, New York, many Negro mothers, who had untiringly followed the Scottsboro case from its beginning, wept for sheer joy. Kerchiefs in hand, they dabbed away almost incessantly at the tears that flowed freely until their warm hearts tired from the excite-

ment. In their happiness, they expressed their kindred feeling of brotherhood with all the members of their race who are degraded and crushed by the iron heel of Southern barbarism. They wanted to share with these mothers the joy which now came after six years of grief and sorrow.

One Negro mother, in a sonorous voice, intoned: "Great God, Scottsboro boys are free! I knew the lynchers would never touch a hair in their heads. O, ye Scottsboro, shame of the lynchers' rule: we will never forget you—you who torture and burn black men! But we've cheated you—four lives you'll never get. O, Scottsboro, now we're wise—five more lives will never satisfy your ravenous thirst for black man's blood!"

Like this Negro mother, white trade unionists, liberals, clergymen, writers and all progressive people who believe that "all men are created equal" have understood that the fight to save the lives of the nine boys is a fight of progressive humanity against the barbarities of an age-worn slave system. The corrupt politicians and other shady characters have fought so stubbornly to send the boys to their death because they, too, have recognized that Scottsboro is a challenge to their vile system of political and economic servitude.

For six years, through falsehoods, intrigue, bribery and intimidation, the State of Alabama has insisted upon the supreme penalty of death for the boys. At the second trial of Haywood Patterson, the late attorney general, Knight, after working himself up in a lather, in a thundering voice of hatred and contempt for the Negro people demanded of the jury:

"Send that black thing [Haywood Patterson—A.H.] to his death. Alabama justice cannot be bought with Jew money from New York."

RELEASING FOUR TO MURDER FIVE

Of all the inconsistencies, one might be prompted to ask: why have the authorities of Alabama for six years held all nine of the boys guilty of the crime of rape and now, as if by some stroke of magic, they suddenly decided that five of them are innocent? The answer is that they have known from the very beginning that all of the boys are innocent.

In the case of Ozzie Powell, Alabama has laid itself wide open for castigation. Ozzie Powell was exonerated from all charges of rape and sentenced to twenty years for scratching Sheriff Sandlin's throat. The truth of the matter is that Ozzie Powell, in almost insane desperation after more than five years of prison confinement, was provoked to defend himself from the taunts, jibes and physical maulings received from the hands of Sheriff Sandlin. Half of his brain was shot away—his whole body is practically paralyzed from the bullet that almost proved fatal to him. For this, Powell has been sentenced to twenty years.

But, like a thief when caught in the act of committing some terrible crime, the authorities of Alabama have tried to wriggle out of a situation in which they have received scathing admonitions from the working class and prominent liberals. Yes, the whole world knows that the Scottsboro boys are not guilty. Nobody will be fooled by the

insidious move of releasing four in order to murder the other five.

Victoria Price lied defiantly for six years. She swore by the Bible and everything else, as only a disreputable character like her would do, that all nine of the boys raped her in succession. According to her story at the first and other trials that followed, she was thrown on top of sharp jagged rock, in the open gondola car in which they were riding, and the nine Negroes ravished her one after the other. Clearly the State of Alabama now admits that she was giving false testimony.

Dr. D. R. Bridges, who examined her, testified that there was no evidence of scratches or cuts on her back, nor of such injuries as would be expected after such an experience. It seems rather interesting in view of the fact that she claimed to have fought back vigorously in trying to keep the Negroes off, that there were no bruises or scratches on her back—a remarkable back she has! The examination of Victoria Price by Dr. Bridges on the day of the alleged rape indicated that she had not had intercourse for at least twenty-four hours.

Dr. Bridges also testified that she was calm and showed no signs of excitement such as would be inevitable after mass rape.

RUBY BATES DECLARES BOYS INNOCENT

Ruby Bates, who repudiated her previous testimony, blasted the whole frameup when she testified that neither she nor Victoria Price had been touched by the nine