

MISSISSIPPI JUDGE SCORES SAVAGE TORTURE OF CONDEMNED NEGROES

N. A. A. C. P. Rushes Legal Aid To Halt Hanging Of Three.

New York, Feb. 1.—In a strongly-worded dissenting opinion, Justice Anderson of the Mississippi Supreme Court has roundly condemned the conviction of Henry Shields, Ed Brown and Yank Ellington, three Negroes accused of murdering Raymond Stewart, a white farmer. They are sentenced to die February 8.

"Leaving out the confessions, the evidence was wholly insufficient to sustain the conviction," Judge Anderson declares, "the evidence showed without any substantial conflict that appellants were driven, to confess their guilt by most brutal and unmerciful whippings and beatings at the hands of persons who doubtless thought they were guilty. . . . Wipe out these confessions, and the court would have been forced to direct a verdict of not guilty. The court had starting it in the face of this incompetent testimony without which there could be no conviction. Must the lives of the appellants be taken by the law, because their counsel failed to bring to the attention of the court this incompetent evidence? Are they without remedy?"

Cites Scottsboro Cases
Viewing this trial as a whole, it appears to me that it is condemned by the principles laid down by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Appellants were denied due process—a fair and impartial trial. They were represented by counsel who had neither time nor opportunity to do their part. Due process requires representation by counsel, either employed by the accused or appointed by the court. The court so held in the Alabama cases. . . .

"In some quarters there appears to be very little regard for that provision of the bill of rights guaranteeing persons charged with crime from being forced to give evidence against themselves (Section 26 of the Constitution. The pinners, the rack, the hose, the third degree, or their equivalent, are still in use."

Rumor Woman in Case
Rumor has it that Stewart was having an affair with a colored woman whether agreeably or by force is not known. Shields is said to have protested against this affair.

Shields was arrested following the death of Stewart and police staged the usual subterfuge of "planting" a bloody axe and clothing in his home. Nothing further was heard of these articles after his arrest. They were not introduced in evidence. Following a severe beating at the hands of the police, Shields "confessed" and implicated Brown and Ellington whom, he said, offered him \$12 to help them kill Stewart about some money allegedly due them. The two men also "confessed" after being savagely beaten. A number of white men, including a minister, were then called in to see that the confessions were made "freely and voluntarily."

There is no other evidence against the condemned men.

Trial Record for Speed: 'Defense' A Joke
Arrested and indicted five days after the murder, the three men were tried and convicted two days later. Although four white lawyers were appointed to defend the Negroes, one failed to show up at the trial and another failed to join in the appeal to the Supreme Court. The two who did

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set failed to object to the brutally extracted "confessions" without which the evidence was wholly insufficient to convict. No witnesses were called at the "trial."

N. A. A. C. P. Rushes to Men's Defense

Immediately upon having the case brought to its attention, the Legal Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People retained State Senator John A. Clark of Mississippi to prepare an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. This action will automatically stay the execution of the three men on February 8.

Officials of the Association assert that this case, exposing as it does the criminal maladministration of justice in Mississippi, the use of savage methods of forcing confessions and the denial of due process of law, is a most momentous and significant one in the struggle for Negro rights. Contributions are urged to aid in the three men's defense.

FOUR NEGRO COLLEGES AIDING ANTI-LYNCH BILL

New York.—Four leading Negro colleges are now aiding the fight for the passage of the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill, according to Miss Katherine Gardner, Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ of America.

Students of Shaw university have sent over 100 letters to President Roosevelt, as have the students and faculty of Barber Scotia college. Talladega college students have circulated a memorial while the Howard University Student council of the College of Liberal Arts has likewise taken action.

"I am hoping" says, Miss Gardner, "that this interest will spread into all the colleges and that they will continue their barrage of letters and telegrams."

Miss Gardner complained some time ago that 64 per cent out of 65 of the heads of Negro colleges had taken no action on the Federal Council's appeal to push action on the bill by petitioning President Roosevelt and members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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RESEVERATIONS COMING IN FOR SPINGARN DINNER

New York.—Reservations for the dinner in honor of Arthur B. Spingarn for his 21 years of service as chairman of the national legal committee of the N. A. A. C. P., are coming into the National office, not only from New York City, but elsewhere. The dinner will be held at the Hotel Lismore, 253 W. Seventy-third St., at 7 p. m., February 12.

James Weldon Johnson is chairman of the dinner committee which includes Dr. Will Alexander, Mary McLeod Bethune, Homer S. Brown, Harry T. Burleigh, Senator Arthur Capper, W. P. Dabney, Clarence Darrow Hays, Jesse S. Heaps, Charles H. Houston, Richard B. Harrison, Arthur Capper, W. P. Dabney, Clarence Darrow, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Felix Frankfurter, Richard B. Harrison, Arthur Garfield Hays, Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, Secretary Harold L. Ickes, Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, Dr. William Allan Neilson, Louis L. Redding, William Rosenwald, Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Judge Charles E. Toney, William Allen White.

Prominent Minister Arrested for Fighting Discrimination

Clairton, Pa. — (CNA) — Rev. Vann McFarland, James Hall and Al Martin, white, were arrested here in the office of the principal of the local high school for demanding the abolition of discrimination against Negro students. The arrested three were part of a delegation of 60 Negro and white students.

Several hundred students and parents assembled in front of the school in solidarity action with the delegation. The demonstration was organized by the Young Communist League.

At a hearing the same day, the Mayor attempted to split the united front fight against Jim Crow by freeing Rev. McFarland while sentencing Hall and Martin.

RACE RELATIONS MASS MEETING THROUGS BROADWAY THEATRE

Iowa Educator Delivers Stirring Address

By Fritz Cansler
Denver, Colo., Feb. 8.—The largest crowd in the history of the local Race Relations Week celebrations which have been sponsored by the local Commission for the past ten years, heard the eloquent Dr. George A. Steiner of Grinnell College, Iowa last Sunday night in the spacious auditorium of the Broadway Theatre. Seldom in recent years has the ancient edifice witnessed a larger or more interested gathering. The theatre was literally filled from "pit to dome" with all three floors crowded with eager listeners from the very beginning of the strains "Carmen" played by the orchestra of Manuel High School, to the closing benediction recited by Rabbi C. H. Kaurer of the local synagogue, and the recessional "Marche Militaire" played by the youthful musicians of the high school band.

Dr. Vere V. Loper, chairman of the Interracial Commission presided and spoke briefly of the work of the organization. The invocation was given by Rev. R. S. Brown, and the double quartet of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral (Catholic) sang three splendid numbers. The offertory Spirituals rendered by the Treble Clef Club, a group of women singers under the direction of Mrs. Irene McWilliams were among the most enjoyable features of the program and won prolonged applause from the large audience. The Denver Consular corps were the special guests and occupied places in the boxes.

Dr. Edward A. Steiner, veteran professor of Grinnell College delivered the principal address. A man of wide experience, of ripe scholarship and of broad human sympathies, Dr. Steiner's remarks ran the whole gamut of emotions from the gay witticisms

with which he embellished his remarkable address, to the stern and uncompromising denunciation with which he characterized the degradation and debasement of personality through many of the accepted practices inculcated in American race and color prejudice. Dr. Steiner scored with unmerciful bitterness the inequalities in life imposed on minority and defenseless groups. He pictured in a dramatic and graphic way the wrongs inflicted upon the Negro since his involuntary seizure and importation into this country under the cruel slave system of capture and transportation. He called upon Americans to repent of the sin of prejudice and grant to all of her children an equal chance to live and contribute to the making of a new and better social order.

Discussion groups, further carrying out the Commission's plans for the observance of the week, met on Monday and Tuesday at the downtown YWCA, with a large and interested attendance. Dr. Ben Cherrington of the University of Denver, led the discussion.

At Chappel House, Denver's Art Museum on Monday night, another

large group of citizens gathered to witness the exhibit which had been prepared by the committee and to listen to a lecture on "The Art of the Negro" by Mr. Watson Bidwell of the Art Museum. The exhibit gathered and circulated by the Harmon Foundation formed the nucleus of the exhibit which will be shown all week under the direction of the committee whose chairman is Mrs. Geraldine Lightner. The reading of Countee Cullen's poems by Mrs. Wilda Dean was one of the most enjoyable features of Monday night's program. After giving a brief history of the young poet's life, the reader gave with her delightful diction and well modulated voice a number of Cullen's poems expressive of his life's philosophy and his genius as a writer.

Other exercises of the week which was generally observed were programs and addresses in schools and colleges, with sermons and talks in church and young people's groups in all parts of the city.

Art Exhibit On Lynching Opens In New York Feb. 15

New York.—An exhibit called "An Art Commentary on Lynching" will open February 15 at the Jacques Seligman Galleries, 3 East 51st Street under the sponsorship of a group of distinguished patrons of both races. It will close March 2.

Included in the exhibit will be oils, sculpture, black-and-white

and photographs all on the subject of lynching. A long list of colored and white artists have submitted pieces for the exhibit, including Hale Woodruff, E. Simms Campbell, Thomas Benton, John Stewart Curry and Julius Block.

Mrs. Pearl S. Buck, famous novelist, will speak at the preview. The foreword for the catalog has been written by Sherwood Anderson, well known southern writer.

Among the patrons are: Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Alexander. Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Beard, Stephen Vincent Benet, Elmer A. Carter, Countee Cullen, Virginius Dabney, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Marion Cuthbert, Hubert T. Delaney, George Gershwin, Zona Gale, Senator and Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, Mrs. Bernard S. Deutsch, Mrs. John Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. DuRose Heyward, Robert Benchley, Fannie Hurst, Rose McClendon, Dr. Allan Locke, Mr. and Mrs. James Weldon Johnson, George Fox Milton, Dorothy Parker, Hon. Caroline O'Day, Dr. Charles Edward Russell, Lewis Garnett, Hon. Josephine Roche, Francis Williams, Molly Pison, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Spingarn, J. E. Spingarn, Amy Spingarn, Dr. and Mrs. Louis T. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Wehle and Blanche Yurka.

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