

Reticence at Monroe Stalls Lynching Quiz, G. I. Chief Declares

MONROE, July 27—(AP)—The head of the Georgia State Police told newsmen Saturday "we just can't cope" with the local situation in the investigation of the massacre of four Negroes near here Thursday. "The best people in town won't talk about this," the police head, Maj. William E. Spence, said. "They have an idea who it is.

"When I get back to town (Atlanta) I'm going to ask the Governor to appeal to every Congressman to help pass Federal legislation against mob violence."

SUSPECT RELEASED

Maj. Spence met newsmen shortly after the release of a man who he said fitted the description of the leader of the armed band which waylaid J. Loy Harrison, a prosperous farmer, and the Negroes on the banks of the Appalachee River.

Spence said Harrison failed to identify the man and said the leader of the mob was "20 pounds heavier."

The State Police leader said he had several other leads, but added that he was getting no co-operation from local authorities.

"We've been out on things like this before, but never anything like this," Spence said.

Shortly after the shooting was made public Friday, agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation went into the county to seek the men who committed the act.

STATE OFFERS \$10,000

To spur the investigation, Gov. Arnall summoned newsmen to his office in Atlanta and announced that he was offering on behalf of the State rewards totaling more than \$10,000 for a solution to the killings.

Grimly, the usual ebullient, round Chief Executive pointed to newspaper clippings reporting the crime on his desk. He said, "I am directing the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to keep its investigators in Walton County until the guilty parties have been identified and turned over to law enforcement officers."

At Cheyenne, Wyo., where he is vacationing, Gov.-Nominate Eugene Talmadge said last night that he had barely had time to read accounts of the shooting. "I think," he said, "such incidents are to be regretted." Beyond that he had no further comment.

Meanwhile, public reaction to the lynchings was mounting.

In Birmingham, Ala., the Southern Negro Youth Congress wrote U. S. Atty. Gen. Clark asking that martial law be declared in Walton County and a house-to-house search conducted for the slayers.

Rep. Marcantonio, American Labor, New York, asked President Truman for "prompt" Federal intervention. He has been a strong advocate of a Federal law to give Federal courts jurisdiction over any lynching case.

The Maryland conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also asked Truman to intervene.

In New York, the NAACP sent telegrams to President Truman and Atty. Gen. Clark requesting the President to "go on the radio and to authorize an immediate investigation into the lynching of these four citizens."

The NAACP added: "We further urge you to bring all pressure and prestige of your office to check current outbreak of lawless New York was reported to have offered a \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the lynching.

Meanwhile, the agents working

Attorney Said Is Ready To

CHICAGO, July 27—(AP)—William Heirens, is ready to confess three of the lurid criminal history—the kidnap six-year-old Suzanne Degnan, the WAVE and the fatal slashing of a

"The defense feels that the time has come for Heirens to make known by confession to the State's Attorney the facts of the various crimes charged against him," said Malachy Coghlan, one of the youth's five attorneys.

Coghlan's reference to "the time has come" obviously meant the defense strategy now was aimed at saving the strapping 17-year-old University of Chicago student and wrestling enthusiast from a possible penalty of death in the electric chair.

Whether this move had good prospects of success could not be determined officially. State's Atty. William J. Tuohy was reported out of the city. Earlier, he said he had not heard of any confession but that he would "like one" if it could be obtained legally.

Coghlan said the confession would deal with the Degnan slaying last Jan. 7, the "lipstick" killing last Dec. 10 of Miss Frances Brown, 33-year-old former WAVE, and the fatal throat slashing of Mrs. Josephine Ross, 43, June 3, 1945.

Asked specifically about the Ross slaying, a killing with which the youth has not been charged but reportedly had confessed orally, he said:

"There is no need to quibble about the number of homicides. There are three. They are the Degnan girl; the ex-WAVE, Miss Brown, and Mrs. Josephine Ross.

"The defense will make known its position to the State's Attorney, probably Tuesday, and will submit to any procedure he subscribes."

The three brutal murders to which his attorney said Heirens would confess were committed within the space of seven months.

All of the slaying occurred in the same North Side neighborhood in which Heirens, termed by Detective Chief Walter Storms "the greatest criminal of his age in Chi-

Pretty House Stepfather

DANVILLE, Va., July 27.—(UP) The bloated bodies of a beautiful 25-year-old brunette, her husband and her stepfather-in-law were found shot to death in their home Saturday and police said the three apparently had been slain by a sex killer.

The victims were identified as

LYNCHING

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at the scene of the massacre reported they had taken bullets from the bodies of the Negroes and were conducting ballistics tests.

Maj. Spence, after a day and night of intense work, suggested that the bloody murders were a "rehearsed affair."

Said Spence: "It looks like it was a rehearsed affair. It looks like it might have been planned since the Negro was first confined to jail."

The GBI head referred to Roger Malcolm, 27, who had been released on a \$600 bond on a charge of stabbing his employer, Barney Hester.

The other victims of the mob were Malcolm's wife and George Dorsey and his wife.

Only witness to the multiple slaying was Loy Harrison, a prosperous farmer in whose car the Negroes were riding.

Harrison said he was taking the Negroes to his farm to work after obtaining Malcolm's release on bond.

GROUP WAYLAID

The Walton County farmer said a band of 20 armed and unmasked men waylaid the group as his car approached a bridge. The Negro men, Harrison related, were taken from the car first and their arms bound.

When one of the women suddenly remarked that she knew one of the men, the mob returned and ordered them to accompany their husbands.

Harrison said the four were marched to a clump of bushes and lined up. Then the leader of the mob, who "looked like a retired businessman," counted to three, Harrison said, and the first of several volleys rang out.

Harrison said he made his way to a store and telephoned news of the massacre to Walton County Sheriff E. S. Gordon. The latter has declared that since Harrison is unable to identify any of the mob, he can do nothing.

Gov. Arnall in announcing the rewards said, "as Governor of Georgia, I am offering a reward to the full limit of the law. Five hundred dollars will be paid for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of each participant in the massacre. These rewards will total more than \$10,000. This lawless gang must be arrested and brought to justice."

REWARD INCREASED

A few hours after Arnall made his statement, the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern organization devoted to the economic development of the South and betterment of racial relations, added \$500 to the reward.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation head said that his investigators had found a 12-year-old boy who lived near the scene and that he said he heard two cars go down the road shortly before the time of the lynching and then heard two or three shots.

The boy also told officers, Spence said, that he saw Harrison driving a car with some Negroes in it, and that there was another car right behind it. The youth related that shortly after that he heard three loud volleys.

The father of the boy also said he heard three volleys of shot, Spence reported. He did not identify the boy or his father.

Spence quoted the boy as saying he thought he could identify one of the men in the car.

When asked about the boy's statement, Harrison said, according to Spence, that he had seen one car trailing him, but that it was some distance back and he saw it only one time.

PLEADED FOR BAIL

Harrison explained that Malcolm's wife was working for him on his farm and had pleaded with him several times to go into town and "bail Roger out of jail."

Spence quoted Harrison as giving this account of what happened after he brought Dorsey and the two women to town:

"I made bond for Malcolm at the courthouse. I came outside and told the Negroes I'd pick them up later on. I made some purchases and then picked them up at a Negro joint. When I got them they were all lit (drunk)."

Harrison also explained that George Dorsey and his wife came very close to escaping the whole affair.

Dorsey's home was on the road between Monroe and the spot where the lynching occurred. Harrison said he presumed Dorsey and his wife would have got out of the car there.

When they got there, however, he said, Dorsey told him: "I think I'll go on over to mama's." His mother lives on the Harrison farm.

Senator Calls Killings 'Blot on United States'

WASHINGTON, July 27—(AP)—Sen. Knowland, Republican, California, told the Senate Saturday that the lynching of four Negroes by a Georgia mob "is a blot on the whole United States."

The Senator urged that the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation exert their "full force" in co-operation with Georgia State officers in an attempt to track down members of the mob.

"Nothing we can do here can bring back the lives of the four

KANSAS PASTOR REUNITED WHO LEFT HIM 'JUST ON

OKLAHOMA CITY, July 27—(AP)—with the Rev. John Paul Lambert and They were reunited at Municipal arrived from Bonner Springs, Kan., shortly the wife who left him and two on impulse."

The 41-year-old pair spent most of ing in a hotel room. The minister sa home Saturday and then have a sec

Said Lambert, pastor of the Church "We talked most of the night.

"When you have been apart for talking to get caught up. We have we are going back to our folk in the c

"I want to visit some of the bo

Mrs. Lambert explained to a rep felt she was hindering her husband's

the last two years."

First news of her disappearance his congregation when a church men

eral other regular announcements a note which she had left behind.

citizens who were murdered but we can speak out and say such things must not continue in the United States of America," Knowland asserted.

Several Southern Senators, including Russell, Democrat, Georgia, expressed displeasure when Knowland inserted in the Congressional Record a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune concerning the lynching.

"Crimes of this nature are not confined to the State of Georgia," Russell declared. "I doubt not that if I were to peruse the newspapers of California I would find that there have been brutal crimes committed by people of that state."

He said he expected to ask for publication in the Record of news stories relating to crime in states other than his own.

Sen. Lin Johnston, Democrat, South Carolina, said he "resented" Knowland's action in placing the clipping in the Record. He noted that the Senate rules forbid a member from referring "offensively" to any state.

Knowland said he meant no offense, but did not think the Senate should remain silent when such a crime is committed.

Negro Press Body Asks Arnall To Push Probe

CHICAGO, July 27—(AP)—The Negro Newspaper Publishers' Association Saturday telegraphed Gov. Arnall of Georgia and President Truman, asking the Governor to make an investigation of the lynchings of four Negroes near Monroe, Ga., July 25, and seeking Presidential aid in urging Congressional enactment of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law.

The telegram to Truman said:

"We respectfully urge you to direct a message to Congress urging enactment of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law. Should Congress adjourn without such action, we

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