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Papers as President: Official File

We are attaching a copy of our weekly press release, in which mention is made of you. This press service goes to more than 200 Negro weekly papers, to feature writers on staffs of several press associations, to staff members on certain daily papers, to the presidents of our 378 branches located in most of the states, of the union, and to certain foreign correspondents.

*Martin Luther King*  
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Assistant Secretary and  
Acting Publicity Director  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People

*9 Nov '36*

PRESS SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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9 Nov

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DEMOCRATIC LANDSLIDE PUTS  
ANTI-LYNCHING BILL FATE  
DIRECTLY UP TO ROOSEVELT



There Are Enough Democratic Votes in Both Houses, Exclusive of "Solid South" to Pass Costigan-Wagner Bill, Analysis Shows, but President Must Give Word

New York, Nov. 9.- Officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stated today, following receipt of complete reports of the Tuesday Democratic landslide, that responsibility for the fate of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill rests directly with President Roosevelt.

This statement is based on the fact that without the vote of a single senator or representative from the Solid South, the Administration can muster 47 Democratic votes in the senate and 222 Democratic votes in the house of representatives in support of the bill, if the President places it on his list of "must" legislation.

The Tuesday election gave the Democrats 69 senatorial seats and 322 congressional seats. To pass the bill, 49 votes are needed in the senate and 218 in the house. In the Solid South which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, there are 22 senatorial and 100 congressional votes, which leaves 47 senatorial and 222 congressional Democratic votes outside the Solid South. Thus, with only two Republican senatorial votes and no Republican congressional votes at all, the bill can be passed if the President insists upon it.

It is a matter of record, says the N.A.A.C.P. that the following senators on the Republican, Progressive and Farmer-Labor side will vote for the Costigan-Wagner bill: Dickinson of Iowa, Capper of Kansas, Couzens and Vanderberg of Michigan, Shipstead of Minnesota, Norris of Nebraska, Barbour of New Jersey, Nye and Frazier of North Dakota, Davis of Pennsylvania and La Follette of Wisconsin. Most of the Republican congressmen will vote for the anti-lynching bill.

SEVEN PRO-PARKER SENATORS  
DEFEATED; VOTERS REMEMBERED THEM

New York, Nov. 9.- Seven of the nine remaining northern pro-Parker senators went down to defeat in the recent election. According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which led the fight against the confirmation of Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina for associate justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1930 and has since fought re-election of the senators who voted for his confirmation, their defeat is largely attributable to the long memory of Negro voters.

The senators defeated for re-election on November 6 were: Fess of Ohio, Hatfield of West Virginia, Hebert of Rhode Island, Kean

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of New Jersey, Patterson of Missouri, Reed of Pennsylvania, Walcott of Connecticut, all Republicans and all in states where there is an appreciable Negro electorate. In each instance, according to the Association, strenuous efforts were made to corral the Negro vote, especially in the cases of Senators Fess, Hatfield, Patterson, Reed, Kean and Walcott. Negro politicians sought vainly to swing the colored vote to them. Senator Kean's Negro campaign managers even used the name of the N.A.A.C.P. without authority on a leaflet and were forced to withdraw it after complaint by the national office of the association.

In The Crisis, N.A.A.C.P. organ, Negroes were admonished in the July, 1930, number to "Paste this (list of Parker-voting senators) in your hat and keep it there until November 1934." Voters evidently did this, for almost every one of the pro-Parker senators who could be reached by Negro voters has since been defeated. Those senators defeated prior to November 6 were Daird of New Jersey, McCulloch of Ohio, Allen of Kansas, Bingham of Connecticut, Shortridge of California, and Watson of Indiana.

When Judge Parker's name was sent to the Senate by President Hoover early in 1930, the N.A.A.C.P. dug up his record and discovered that in 1920 when seeking the Republican nomination for governor of North Carolina he expressed the views that

- (a) He believed in the disfranchisement of Negroes.
- (b) That Negroes did not wish to enter politics.
- (c) That the Republican Party in North Carolina did not wish Negroes to vote.
- (d) That Negro participation in politics is a source of evil and danger.

The Association promptly launched a nationwide campaign against Parker's appointment to the U. S. supreme court, the like of which had never before been seen in the United States. Negroes and white liberals were aroused, opinion was mobilized, pressure was brought to bear on President Hoover and every United States senator. On April 21, 1930, the Senate judiciary committee reported adversely on Parker's confirmation, 10 to 6. When the question came to a vote in the senate on May 7, 1930, confirmation was refused, 41 to 39, thus registering a great victory for the cause of the Negro and liberal thought in the United States. The issue drove President Hoover into the open on the Negro question and helped pave the way for his defeat in 1932. It demonstrated, according to the Association's officers, as nothing had before, the power and potentialities of the Negro vote.

At every election since Parker's defeat, the Association has directed its guns against those senators who voted for his confirmation.

#### FLORIDA RUMOR SAYS CLAUDE NEAL WAS INNOCENT

New York, Nov. 9.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People received a letter today from one of its members in Florida expressing the belief that Claude Neal, who was kidnaped from the Brewton, Ala. jail and lynched near Marianna on October 26, was innocent.

"I think I voice the sentiment of a large number of people", the writer says, "when I say that an innocent man (Claude Neal) has been lynched. It was reported that clothes with bloodstains on them were found at Neal's home, those causing him to become the object of suspicion and lynching. It is said that those clothes are retained in the jail at Marianna and they are not Neal's clothes. It is said that a white man who killed the white girl sent those clothes to Neal's to be washed by his mother. These may or may not be the facts, but they deserve investigation. Living as I do where it is easy to incite a mob I realize that it is dangerous for me or any other man....to write or say too much. So I am giving you a hint of some things which are being said here with reference to the matter."

The Association is keeping the name of its informant secret and is actively engaged in investigating the background and details of the lynching.

PICKENS SAYS U. S. SHOULD  
APOLOGIZE TO DILLINGER  
AND FLOYD RELATIVES

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New York, Nov. 9.- In a letter to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummings, William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has urged action against the lynchers of Claude Neal at Marianna, Fla.

"We have made laws to punish interstate kidnapers", the letter says, promising death to those who harm their victims. If we fail to make good, or at least to exhaust every resource to make good, in this wholesale violation of those laws, we ought to apologize to the relatives of the Dillingers and the Floyds, and to dismiss all pending cases against petty criminals of the kind, who now stand in jeopardy of their liberties and their lives."

EXPECT DECISION SOON IN  
JESS HOLLINS CASE

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Oklahoma City, Nov. 9.- The case of Jess Hollins, Sapulpa man accused of rape, who has been under death sentence since 1932, will shortly be decided by the Criminal Court of Appeals. His attorney Judge E. P. Hill, argued the case before that body on October 23, and fully stressed the question of the all-white jury service in Oklahoma. A favorable opinion is expected.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been handling the Hollins defense and the Oklahoma branches led by Roscoe Dunjee, militant editor of the Black Dispatch, have supplied most of the funds. The N.A.A.C.P. entered the case on August 15, 1932, three days before Hollins was sentenced to be electrocuted, when the International Labor Defense, which had been defending him, failed to act in his behalf.

PICKENS ENROLLS WHITE  
SOUTHERNERS IN N.A.A.C.P.

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Darlington, S. C. Nov. 9.- Material for Ripley's "Believe It or Not" column was gained here two days after the Marianna, Fla. kidnap-lynching, when six prominent local white men joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People following the address of William Pickens, field secretary of the association at the local Negro public school. Thirty-odd Negroes also joined the Association. The great success of the membership drive in this city is attributed to the work of Dr. Jos. A. Robinson, prominent physician and Bishop Noah Williams of the A.M.E. Church, the annual conference of which was in session here at the time of the mass meeting. Bishop Williams cancelled the A.M.E. Conference at Clinton, S. C. last year because of the lynching there of Morris Dendy.

The whites who joined the N.A.A.C.P. were Mayor O. A. Alexander; City Clerk, Ed. Fountain; Dr. C. C. Hill, prominent physician; J. A. McCleod, Clerk of the Court; Dr. J. W. Wilcox, druggist, and A. S. Dorgan, insurance underwriter.

REVELATIONS PROMISED IN  
LOUISIANA "SWEET" CASE

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Franklinton, La. Nov. 9.- Startling revelations are promised at the trial of Mrs. Tempie Wilson and her son Luther which was scheduled to open here on Nov. 5. The two are charged with complicity in the killing of Deputy Sheriff Delos C. Wood on July 21, when he attempted to enter their premises without a warrant and arrest Jerome Wilson, son of Mrs. Wilson. Several members of the family were shot in the struggle, including two young Wilson sons. Jerome Wilson, badly wounded in the fray, was tried nine days later, convicted and sentenced to death on August 6. An appeal for a new trial was promptly filed.

Additional attorneys have been engaged by the New Orleans branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a personal investigation of the whole affair made by members of the branch. More than a dozen members of the family have been held in the local jail. On three occasions mobs sought to lynch Jerome Wilson and other members of the family have been threatened.

The whole trouble arose over the alleged failure of the Wilsons to have a mule properly dipped. One Range Rider Magee complained to Deputy Sheriff Wood, a reputed bully and "nigger-hater". The shooting followed when Wood and his associates entered the Wilson premises.

SOUTHERN DAILY PRESS HITS  
MARIANNA LYNCHING ORGY

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New York, Nov. 9.- Many representative southern newspapers have editorially denounced the horrifying lynching on October 26 at Marianna, Fla. of Claude Neal, who was kidnaped from the Brewton, Ala. jail, transported into Florida and tortured to death with the apparent connivance of law enforcement officers.

Washington Post, Oct. 28: "It is such flagrant lapses from civilized conduct which give substance to demands for the undesirable remedy of a Federal anti-lynching law".

Washington, D. C. News, Oct. 29: "Unless the Federal Government acts under the kidnaping law, the Alabama-Florida lynching probably will go unpunished like virtually all other lynchings. Because of the mob's removal of the victim from one state to another, this was an interstate crime. Enactment of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill... is one of the major charges upon the next Congress. But that law cannot be passed without the active support of President Roosevelt in whose Administration there have already been 45 lynchings".

Rocky Mount, N. C. Telegram, Oct. 29: "It is reasonable to say that no members of the mob will be apprehended and brought into court... We have no brief for the Negro killer, although by all standards he must be looked upon as innocent until he is proved guilty. The fact that the victim of the mob is alleged to have confessed his crime does not imply that his admissions were true or that they were not wrung from him".

Miami, Fla. Herald, Oct. 27: "The Negro, if guilty of the crime charge, assault and murder of a young woman, deserves death. But by prompt legal methods".

Winter Haven, Fla. Chief, Oct. 29: "The lynching of Claude Neal, Negro, at Marianna for the murder of a white girl, was just as reprehensible as that of any other lynching that has ever been committed anywhere else on earth... the men composing the lynching party ought to be brought to justice immediately."

St. Petersburg, Fla. Independent, Oct. 30. "One of the probable results of the Marianna lynching will be the stimulation of effort to put through congress a federal anti-lynching bill".

Asheville, N. C. Times, Oct. 29: "If the states do not enforce their criminal laws, the time may come when the Federal Government may find itself compelled to enforce the law for them".

Taladega, Ala. Home, Oct. 29: "One of the most brazen examples of disrespect for law that has ever been recorded. Only the mob performed its part well..... so far as any effectual effort to stop it is concerned, the counties through which the mob passed had no officers, and the state of Florida had less than a governor... In fact the manner in which the mob took its time was only exceeded by that of Governor Sholtz".

Tampa, Fla. Tribune, Oct. 29: "Ample notice was given the authorities of the intentions of the mob. There can be no excuse of lack of warning, unpreparedness. The Governor was notified of the prospect, at Arcadia, received appeals from organizations. He acted promptly in notifying the Jackson county sheriff that he would authorize calling out the troops if the sheriff deemed it necessary to prevent the lynching. The sheriff replied that he would "take care" of the situation. How he "took care" of it is tragically told by the body swaying from the Marianna tree... What is to be done about it?"

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