

DENIES SNOWDEN PLEA

Governor Refuses To Commute
Negro's Death Sentence.

JURORS PRESENT PETITION

Baltimorean, Who Scored Verdict
In Letter To Newspaper, Not
Allowed To Finish Argument.

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 24.—After a lengthy hearing today Governor Harrington refused to commute the death sentence of John Snowden, colored, sentenced to be hanged Friday for the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon. A petition signed by 11 of the jurors who brought in the verdict of murder in the first degree, and also one signed by a number of business and professional men of Annapolis, both asking for a reprieve or commutation to life sentence, were presented.

Between 200 and 300 people crowded the main executive office. They were of both races and sexes, but most of the white persons were present as curious listeners. The audience included many women who had no serious interest in the case.

The principal arguments in favor of commutation were made by A. Theodore Brady, attorney for Snowden; James M. Munroe, of the Annapolis bar, and Lieut. H. L. Rice, a professor at the Naval Academy. The arguments were based on the claim that there was a reasonable doubt in the case. Mr. Munroe argued also that the ends of justice would be met by life imprisonment. Professor Rice based his arguments on his "moral and spiritual intuitions that Snowden was innocent," and also upon certain conclusions he had reached from the evidence in the case or that he had heard from other sources.

Something of a surprise was occasioned when R. E. Lee Hosley, a member of the jury which tried Snowden, presented a petition asking for a commutation. The petition was signed by Granville Simpson, foreman, and 10 others of the jury, only one having failed to sign. Upon questions by the Governor, Mr. Hosley said that he still believed Snowden guilty and knew of no new facts in the case, but, as expressed in the petition, his action and that of his fellow-jurymen was based on the possibility that human judgment might be in error.

William M. R. Campbell, of Baltimore, attempted to speak, but Governor Harrington recognized him as the writer of a communication to a Baltimore paper, in which he had charged that Snowden was to be hung because he was a "nigger" and to shield someone else. The Governor asked him if he had written the communication and the speaker admitted that he had. He claimed to be acting in the interest of justice. The Governor declined to hear him further and told him that he ought to be in the hands of the authorities.

Campbell made several subsequent interruptions, and was the center of a loud discussion after the hearing. So loud did he become that a detective hustled him out of the room and to the railroad station, directing him to leave Annapolis at once. The Governor admonished him for his attack upon the officers of justice and aspersions upon his State.

After the case for clemency had been presented Governor Harrington replied, speaking emphatically for an hour. He went over the evidence which, he said, was most complete and convincing. He denounced those who refused to accept the evidence that Mrs. Brandon was seen alive, and who still implied that after her husband had gone to work, and who still implied that Brandon was the murderer.