

Lynchers Raid Jail, Vanish With Negro

JACKSON, N. C.

A masked band of armed white men raided Northampton County jail here early Friday and kidnaped a Negro prisoner.

"I am afraid that a lynching has taken place," said Sheriff A. C. Stephenson 12 hours later, announcing that he had no clues to where the lynchers came from, where they went or what they did with Godwin Bush, 24, accused of molesting a white woman.

The jail raid occurred just 28 hours after a self-confessed lynch mob was acquitted in a South Carolina court, affirming the Southern tradition that a white man must never be punished for a crime against a Negro.

Case Parallels That Of Willie Earle

In many ways, the Godwin Bush case parallels that of Willie Earle who was snatched from jail at Pickens, S. C., on Feb. 16 and murdered brutally after torture.

Bush was picked up at Rich Square, 12 miles east of Jackson, after a white woman was set upon by a Negro as she took a short cut behind a billboard on her way home. Authorities said Bush was identified by high school boys as the man they saw running from the scene after the woman screamed.

The woman said her attacker was wearing a cap. Bush, when arrested, was bare-headed. He was reported to have been wearing a cap on Thursday. After being caught, he said under questioning that he had hidden his cap.

Racial tension had been at the boiling point for several weeks since another Negro, Willie Cherry, was charged with raping a white woman at Rich Square. For safe-keeping, Cherry was moved to Central Prison at Raleigh.



Case Lynch Bill Would Make Towns Pay Victim's Folks

WASHINGTON

Rep. Clifford P. Case (R., N. J.), author of an anti-lynching bill now before Congress said his measure contains a clause which he believes will hit Southern Justice where it hurts.

His bill would make local communities liable for civil damages of \$2000 to \$10,000 for a lynch victim or his survivors.

"I don't know whether Federal law would be more enforceable than State law insofar as punishing the perpetrators of a lynching is concerned," said Case. "You would still have local people sitting on the jury. But the section of the bill providing for civil damages would be enforceable. It would in itself be a deterrent against such crimes and alleviate part of the hardships caused by lynchings."

Meanwhile, a roundup of editorial opinion showed that the Greenville acquittal verdict was viewed as disgraceful, shocking, or shameful by many Southern papers.

The Case bill would punish lynchings by a maximum fine of \$10,000.

recautions were taken. Bush. He was brought to the county jail in this community of 1200 population and placed in charge of Jailer A. W. Edwards who was alone when the lynchers arrived at 2 a.m. He opened up and there were several men, waving pistols, all masked.

"They told me they wanted Bush and there was nothing I could do but give them the key to the lock-up," said Edwards. "They went in and got him and hustled him out."

Edwards' first action was to telephone Sheriff Stephenson who organize a posse and led a search of surrounding farmlands, woods, and swamps.

The posse gave up at noon be-

prisonment and would public officers who "will failed" to prevent a lynching to a fine of \$5000 or five years in jail.

(In order to get action on the Case Bill, wire or write Case, Rep. Earl C. Michener (R., Mich.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee or Rep. Joseph Martin (R., Mass.), House Speaker, at the House Office Building, Washington, D. C.—Ed.)

cause, Edwards said, "there was nothing for them to go on." Best theory was that Bush had been murdered and dumped into the swift Roanoke River.

At Raleigh, Gov. R. Gregg Cherry swung into action. He ordered State Bureau of Investigation agents and highway patrolmen to Northampton County.

"I will not condone lynchings or play of this kind as long as I am Governor," said Cherry. "I have instructed all of the State agencies to investigate this immediately to see if there is any evidence of foul play."

Romney Gets 1 to 3 Yrs. WASHINGTON

Kenneth Romney, former House sergeant-at-arms, has been sentenced to from one to three years in prison for concealing a \$143,863 shortage in funds in the House "bank" over the last 20 years.

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