been disarmed in a state and in a city where insult was the daily experience of the colored man wearing the uniform of the United States Army. Following a long series of humiliating and harassing incidents, one soldier was brutally beaten and a well-beloved non-commissioned officer of the regiment also brutally beaten and fired upon because they had intervened in the mistreatment of a colored woman by local policemen. The report spread among the regiment that their non-commissioned officer, Corporal Baltimore, had been killed. Whatever acts may have been committed by men of the regiment were not the result of any premeditated design. The men were goaded to sudden and frenzied action. This is borne out by the long record of orderly and soldierly conduct on the part of this regiment throughout its whole history up to that time.

The punishment meted out to the members of this regiment was the most drastic and unusual in the history of the Army. Nineteen of the men were hanged, the first thirteen of them summarily and without right of appeal. This wholesale, unprecedented and almost clandestine execution shocked the entire country and appeared to the colored people to savor of vengeance rather than justice. It bore the aspects of a visitation upon color rather than upon crime. This state of mind was intensified by the significant fact that although white persons were involved in the Houston affair and the regiment to which these colored men belonged was officered entirely by white men, none but colored men have ever been prosecuted or condemned. Fifty-four of the men are still in prison serving life and long-term sentences.

It is not within the province of this delegation, nor is this the occasion, to argue these cases. But we wish to call your attention to the fact that the men were tried and convicted under a blanket indictment.

The conduct of these men as prisoners at Leavenworth has been more than exemplary. This much has been openly stated by Warden Biddle of the Penitentiary. And it is in behalf of these remaining men of the regiment who have now served nearly six years in prison that we lay before you this Petition signed by more than 120,000 American citizens, white as well as black, asking that by the exercise of executive clemency you pardon these men and restore them to citizenship.

This Petition of 120,000 names represents the earnest efforts through the past four months of every active element among the colored people of the country. It is the result of the united and consecrated work of civic, fraternal, educational and religious organizations, and of that comparatively new but mighty force, the colored press. All of those elements in the race are represented in this delegation.

We have the honor, Mr. President, respectfully to present this Petition in the name of the signers and in the name of the colored people throughout the United States whose attention will be focused upon the action it may please you to take. We present it in the name of the people whose hearts have long carried the harsh fate of these men as a heavy burden and with the feeling that, whatever acts they may have committed, they have already been more than punished; and whose hope for their early pardon has been raised by your recent magnanimous action in the cases of war-time offenders.

President Coolidge received the delegation cordially and listened

with attention to Mr. Johnson's presentation of the petition. The President assured the delegation that he was well disposed towards the imprisoned members of the 24th Infantry and that he would do what he could in their behalf. President Coolidge stated that he would order an investigation of the case of each man by the War Department and that if he was empowered to do so he would move to have the men released.

Following President Coolidge's statement, Mr. William Monroe Trotter, Secretary of the National Equal Rights League, made an eloquent plea for the imprisoned men and presented resolutions and letters from congressmen and others, urging pardons.

Following the meeting with President Coolidge at the White House, Mr. Johnson called upon Senator Arthur Capper, of Kansas, and Representative Martin Madden, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and both these gentlemen promised to speak to the President and to second the petition presented through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The full committee, in whose behalf the delegation to the White House presented the petition to President Coolidge, is as follows:

E. W. Abner	Supreme Commander, American Woodmen.
Sadie Mossell Alexander	Grand President, Delta Sigma Theta.
J. W. Alstork	National Grand Commander, Ancient York Masons.
C. R. Blake, Jr.	
Eva D. Bowles	
Nannie H. Burroughs	President, National Training School for Women and Girls.
C. E. Bush	National Order of Mosaic Templars of America.
W. S. Cannon	Supreme Grand Master, Independent Benevolent Order.
R. R. Church	Lincoln League of America.
James A. Cobb.	Special Assistant U. S. Attorney, 1907-1915. Dean Howard University Law School.
George W. Cook	Professor, Howard University.
B. J. Davis	
Dorothy Hendrickson	Secretary, Kappa Gamma Kappa.
John Hurst	Bishop, A. M. E. Church.
Henry Lincoln Johnson	Lincoln League of America.
Robert E. Jones	Bishop, M. E. Church
Isaac Lane	Bishop, C. M. E. Church.
	Editor, The Washington Tribune.
	Dean Junior College, Howard University.
Fred R. Moore	Editor, The New York Age.