Justice Dept., NAACP officials discuss probe of terror in Miss.

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Roy Wilkins, executive secretary, and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, this week asked the Justice Department for "prompt and effective action" against the reign of terror in Mississippi.

The two national NAACP officials, and three other Association officers, conferred for 40 minutes with Justice Department officials.

Speaking specifically of the "whistle murder" of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago, Mr. Wilkins said:

Although two white men, Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 35, his half-brother, have been indicted for the kidnap-murder of the Till boy, it is still necessary to take steps to prevent a white-wash of them in some farcical trial.

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IN A PREPARED statement, the NAACP officials urged the Justice Department "to delay no longer in calling a halt to the jungle fury loosed in Mississippi.

"Every moment of delay compounds the national shame.

"The Federal government cannot escape responsibility by shifting the obligation to the State of Mississippi which has indicated neither its willingness nor desire to apprehend and punish the criminal killers or their respectable fronts."

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THE CONFERENCE was with Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney 3rd. Others attending were Clarence Mitchell, director, NAACP Washington bureau; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast regional director, and Medgar Evers, Mississippi field secretary.

In the statement, Mr. Wilkins called the murder of young Till on Aug. 28, "the logical and inevitable culmination of a reign of terror which has been generated in Mississippi throughout the year."

The principal events in the reign of terror listed by Mr. Wilkins were:

1. One of the chief aims of White Citizens Councils in Mississippi is to keep colored people from voting. Other aims are to keep segregated schools and maintain present conditions in race relations.

2. They have encouraged economic boycotts of colored citizens who insist upon exercising their civil rights, sought to have militant colored persons fired from job and instigated denial of credit to farmers and small businessmen to force them to accept segregation.

3. THE REV. GEORGE W. LEE was murdered in Belzoni May 7 because he refused to remove his name from the registered voters' list when local whites ordered him to do so. Nobody has been arrested for his murder.

4. During the Democratic gubernatorial primaries this summer, all five candidates "ranted and raved" against colored people, threatening them and telling what they would do, if elected, to keep colored people in their "places."

5. As the primary campaign grew hotter, more and more pressure was exerted to force colored persons to get off the voting lists. Thousands, fearing for their lives, did so. In one county colored registration dropped from 400 to 80.

6. In Lowndes County, death threats were sent through the mails to three registered colored voters.

• • •

7. LAMAR SMITH, a registered voter, was called from his home to the courthouse in Lincoln County and shot to death on the steps Aug. 13.

"I do not believe at this moment there is much hope for state action in the voting cases. There is some evidence that the Till murder has shocked even Mississippians and that others might be—and undersore might be—some action there. I am not optimistic, but I hope."

Mr. Wilkins said he has already taken up with Attorney General Brownell, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, the matter of the disenfranchisement of colored people in Mississippi, in which Tom Tubbs, the chairman of the Democratic states organization, is playing a leading role.

• • •

THE NAACP SECRETARY said he pointed out to Mr. Butler that the Democratic party was in full control of the State of Mississippi and that the state chairman had announced the holding of a meeting for the sole purpose of cutting down the number of colored voters.

"I said this was not calculated to make friends for the Democrats," Mr. Wilkins said.

He added that he also had written to Leonard W. Hall, chairman of the Republican National Committee, urging him to use his influence to see that the executive branch of the Federal Government took action in the Mississippi cases.

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END MISSISSIPPI TERROR—"In the name of all that is decent in American life, the NAACP calls upon the Federal government to act promptly to prevent further bloodshed in Mississippi," Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, told Warren Olney, assistant attorney general, Wednesday. In the delegation from left—Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Medgar Evers, Thurgood Marshall, Mr. Olney, Roy Wilkins, and Clarence Mitchell.

No Federal jurisdiction in Miss. case

Justice official calls boy's murder a 'state' matter

Arthur J. Caldwell, chief of the civil rights section, Department of Justice, said Tuesday that the investigation into the May slaying of a Belzoni, Miss., minister is still under way.

"The investigation is still not complete," Mr. Caldwell said.

That probe is in connection with the fatal shooting of Rev. George W. Lee, a Baptist minister, who urged colored residents of Belzoni to register and vote.

• • •

AT THE same time, Mr. Caldwell told the AFRO that the Department of Justice had no jurisdiction in the slaying, last week, of Emmett L. Till, 25-year-old Chicago boy who was visiting relatives at Greenwood, Miss.

"The Federal government has no jurisdiction over a state murder," Mr. Caldwell said. "No Federal law has been violated."

The slaying of young Till has aroused nationwide resentment and comment. The boy was buried last weekend in Chicago, as over 30,000 persons crowded around the church area where his funeral was held.

Two white brothers who allegedly killed young Till were indicted for murder by a grand jury at Greenwood Tuesday afternoon.

The boy was shot allegedly because of "wolf-whistled" at a white woman in a store. She was the wife of one of the two indicted men.

(Continued from Page 1)

identity of the body.

THE KIDNAPING occurred August 28, and the body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River three days later.

Emmett allegedly wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant store at Money, Miss., near Greenwood.

The boy was taken from the home of an uncle-Mose Wright, near Money, which is in LeFlore County.

• • •

BRYANT AND Milam said they freed Emmett after they found that he was not the right boy but have made no statement since the body was found.

Earlier the jury had called Dr. L. B. Otken, a white physician who had examined the body, and Chester A. Miller, a colored undertaker.

Emmett's relatives identified the body as that of the boy, but District Attorney Gerald Chatham said Dr. Otken told him he doubted the body could deteriorate as much in three days as the body pulled from the river.

Man drowns in 7 inches of water

WASHINGTON

Henry B. Parks, 39, employee of a grill in the 2300 block Georgia Ave., NW, was pronounced dead early Monday morning after tumbling off a makeshift bed in the basement of the place into about seven inches of water.

He had been employed at the grill about three months, and had permission of the employer to sleep in the basement.

The water accumulated in the basement as a backwash from sewer lines during the recent heavy rains and had not been drained out.

• • •

William Austin, 45, 600 block Park Road, NW, a cook at the grill, found Parks about 6 a.m. when he went downstairs to waken the dishwasher. Dr. A. B. LeQuay of Casualty Hospital answered an ambulance call and pronounced Parks dead.

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Hotel

(Continued from Page 1)

in Parlor M on the third floor, didn't they?

A—They preferred the private dining room. They were given the best and kindest treatment and seemed to appreciate it.

"In fact, Mr. Van Sagen of Philadelphia, who was in charge of the group, complimented everybody at the hotel about the treatment they received — room service and everything. They were quite satisfied."

Q—But they did not take any meals in the public dining rooms?

A—No, they preferred the private dining room, but they didn't have to eat there. They were away from the hotel most of the time.

• • •

NELSON BUSICK, managing director of the hotel, could not be reached by the AFRO to determine whether or not the hotel had changed its policy in view of his prior public statement that the Lord Baltimore would not welcome colored guests.

In April 1954, Mr. Busick was president of the Baltimore Hotel Association, which at that time met with Governor McKeldin and the state commission on race relations to discuss the hotel situation.

At the meeting, the association gave the governor a letter which stated:

"Our policies of the past and our policies of the future are set and will be set by the general public regardless of our personal viewpoints.

"At this time we cannot take a drastic step that we feel from the pulse of the public will endanger our investments."

• • •

THE COMMISSION has been trying since then to get the hotel association to change its policy. Governor McKeldin, in a special speech to the hotels, pointed out that Baltimore is the only city with a team in the American League where colored team members are not welcome at hotels with their teammates.

When the Sheraton - Belvedere Hotel opened its doors to all last December, it was forced to close them about six weeks later after what the Sheraton management called "pressure" from the Hotel Association. Mr. Busick was still president at that time.

Harold Fink of the Southern Hotel who has succeeded Mr. Busick as president of the Hotel Association said the Association has not changed its stand.

He added, "I don't know anything about it," when advised the Lord Baltimore had colored guests last week.

Harry Gilbert of the St. James Hotel, secretary of the Hotel Association, said that the association took no action on racial patterns at local hotels at its last meeting on August 30, and in fact did not discuss the matter.

He expressed great surprise that the Lord Baltimore had accepted guests of color, asking an AFRO reporter: "Are you positive that they stayed overnight in the hotel — actually occupied rooms?"

When the reporter answered that they occupied rooms 430 and adjoining rooms from Saturday until Monday, Mr. Gilbert said: "Well, that's something. The Lord Baltimore has been one of the ones which has been fighting this thing (i.e., the move to end segregation)."

"I'm interested to hear this myself. What the larger hotels do, the smaller hotels can follow."

• • •

ASKED WHETHER the association might possibly discuss segregation at its next meeting on or about September 30, Mr. Gilbert said: "We're talking about it all the time, informally that is. Every now and then a group comes and we have a awful lot of discussion about whether individual hotels will accept them or refer them uptown to the York.

"We'd like to see a solution to this thing — satisfactory to all concerned."

When asked whether the recent ruling by Judge Michael J. Manley which said the Liquor Board could permit licensees to serve persons regardless of race might be helpful in speeding up the end of hotel segregation, Mr. Gilbert said:

"That might be an answer to it, but public acceptance is the important thing. We need public acceptance to solve this problem."

• • •

WHILE IN the city, the Nigerians visited the Timonium State Fair to study the agricultural machinery and to look at the livestock.

The delegation will return to its native country after touring a cocoa plant in York, Pa., and a rubber manufacturing company in Dayton, Ohio.

AUSTIN SCARLETT

Scarlett

(Continued from Page 1)

takes short strolls with a woman about whom there is an air of mystery.

She is Maud Anderson, whom some say is his secretary. Scarlett refuses to discuss her.

THE RETURN OF Scarlett to the hometown he left as a youth of 20 has thus not ended the fabulous career he designed himself. There are predictions of bigger things to come, but this time on the right side of the law.

In 1921 when Austine left here, his parents, Herbert and Sarah Hall Scarlett, were living in a modest but tiny little home at Friendship District in the parish of Hanover.

Austine had predicted to them that the world leave home unannounced, so they were not worried when he did. The youngster had always said they should look for a letter delivered from "the land of the fast buck."

Besides there were other children at home. A boy, Alton; and two girls, Areta (now Mrs. Grant); and Urcella (now Mrs. McNak.)

Then came the letter that told Austine's parents he had managed to slip into the United States with only what he had on his back—and a dream.

• • •

BUT EVEN Austine never imagined then the dizzy, gilded heights he would climb on the wrong side of the law.

The "fast buck" came fastest in numbers-banking and gambling, although he did legitimate business too. And by 1952 Scarlett boasted a financial organization in Baltimore which those in the know said brought in a half million dollars.

Then his 'kingdom' toppled and the U.S. discovered he had entered the country illegally—as a stowaway aboard a ship which docked in Baltimore on May 10, 1921.

Then came his trial and conviction for numbers conspiracy.

A seven-year jail term and a $2,000 fine were slapped on him.

But the man who had gambled his way to wealth, tried to beat the rap by appealing the court's sentence.

He lost. On May 28, 1953, he began his prison term.

In July 1955, Maryland's Governor McKeldin commuted the sentence, and Scarlett was released to immigration officials who deported him here to the land of his birth.

Reached Wednesday at the Plaza Manor Convalescent home in Glen Burnie where she is supervisor, Mrs. Ella Mae Scarlett told the AFRO: "I do not know a thing about my husband preparing a honeymoon cottage in Jamaica for me. This is the first I have heard about it."

Mrs. Scarlett also refused to indicate whether she is going to Jamaica.

She told the AFRO she did not know Mrs. Maud Anderson who is described as her husband's secretary.

"That might be an answer to it, but public acceptance is the important thing. We need public acceptance to solve this problem."

• • •

WHILE IN the city, the Nigerians visited the Timonium State Fair to study the agricultural machinery and to look at the livestock.

The delegation will return to its native country after touring a cocoa plant in York, Pa., and a rubber manufacturing company in Dayton, Ohio.

REPORTER'S ROW:

New word: Mississippism

It means more than mere lynching

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

A new word is being added to the American vocabulary.

It is 'Mississippism.'

Once it attains the status of common usage, it will mean summary punishment by private individuals without legal formality, but with silent approval of constituted authority.

"Mississippism" belongs to the same family of words as "Bilboism," "mongrelize," "Dixiecratism," "white primaries" and "Stanleism."

• • •

THE HISTORIC background of this particular family of words dates from that particularly American institution of mob violence known variously as lynching and lynch law.

In order to grasp the full and complete connotation of "Mississippism," however, it is necessary to know the origin and background of the words lynching and lynch law.

• • •

AS WE understand the word today, lynch means "to judge and punish by lynch law."

Lynch law means "summary punishment by private individuals without the usual legal formalities."

Both lynching and lynch law stem from the legend around a figure of the American Revolutionary period—Colonel Charles Lynch.

However, the man for whom this jurisprudence of violence was named never practiced lynching as such.

• • •

BEING A QUAKER of deep religious convictions, it is doubtful that he would have tolerated the practice.

He was born in 1736 in Chestnut Hill (Bedford County), Va., near the spot that is now Lynchburg. (The town was named for one of his brothers.

In 1776 he reluctantly accepted a commission as Colonel of Militia to organize a regiment.

LATER, WHEN the fighting resulted in a breakdown of constituted authority, along with three friends, he consented to be appointed as one of the justices of a four-man court.

The court held its sessions in his home.

The procedure of this court was to bring the accused face to face with his accuser, permit him to hear testimony against himself, and allow him to subpoena witnesses in his own defense.

If acquitted, the accused was permitted to go his way. If convicted, he received 39 lashes on the bared back.

BECAUSE OF the activities of this court, certain persons, after the war, brought suit against Colonel Lynch and the other justices.

In 1872 the Virginia Legislature passed a bill to "indemnify and exonerate" them.

The legislation became known as "Lynch's Law," and thereupon hangs the legend.

This is the historical precedent, draped then in something of a patriotic fragrance.

• • •

HOW DID lynch law become

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Sclerosis

(Continued from Page 1)

dure when she gets out of bed in the morning.

While this act might prove tiresome and boring to many, Mrs. Hackett accepts it cheerfully as an extra job she must do each time she wants to get about.

She makes the beds, scrubs the floors, does the cooking and ironing and washes clothes by hand, kneeling before the bathtub.

Like the average housewife, who often gets bared with certain chores, Mrs. Hackett admits there are times when her work gets on her nerves.

Her solution is: "Just stop what you're doing and go on to something else. Don't let things bother you."

• • •

MANY TIMES Mrs. Hackett's ironing has been interrupted because of a temporary mental depression. "I'll go sit down and watch television or read a book and then go back to it later," she explained.

Her day begins at 7:30 a.m. when she must get her 9-year-old son, Vernon Jr., off to school. She stays upstairs in the morning cleaning up the living room, and kitchen, until Vernon returns for lunch.

After he goes back to school, Mrs. Hackett drags herself upstairs to clean up the two bedrooms and bathrooms. By the time she finishes, young Vernon is home for the day she comes back downstairs to prepare dinner.

Vernon runs errands for her and empties ash trays and trash cans. The head of the household, Vernon Hackett Sr., a construction worker, looks after the marketing.

The oldest son, Edward, 21, is with the Air Force in France.

Mrs. Hackett is never at a loss for friends. "I'm as near to them as my telephone," she laughs.

• • •

A NEIGHBOR, Mrs. Ruby Bridges, who occupies the same apartment building, said, "Evelyn does wonders for others.

"She is kind and considerate and always ready to give advice. And without her spirit, she would be bedridden today."

Mrs. Hackett admits that 17 years ago when she suddenly lost control of her legs and began to suffer dizzy spells, she was frightened.

But today, although aware that the cause and cure of multiple sclerosis is not yet known, she has the courage and bright spirit to face the future despite her disability.

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Heart attack kills Mrs. S. Alexander

PHILADELPHIA—Hundreds of prominent persons from New York, Washington, Massachusetts and Philadelphia, paid tribute last week to Mrs. Ethel W. Aleander, who died August 30 in Graduate Hospital after suffering a heart attack at her home, 1611 Pine St.

She was the wife of Scholley Pace Alexander, prominent real estate broker and appraiser, and the sister-in-law of Councilman and Mrs. Raymond Pace Alexander.

Mrs. Alexander, the former Ethel B. Watson of Warrenton, Va., and New York City was 50 years old.

• • •

IN HER YOUTH, she attended school in New York and St. Elizabeth's Convent in Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. She had long been active in Catholic Charities and welfare work.

Her husband, a former member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, is a member of the Philadelphia Housing Association, and director of the Citizens' Council on City Planning.

He is an appraiser for the City Development Authority. The couple was married in NYC in March, 1923.

SOLEMN requiem mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's R. C. Church at 10 a. m., Saturday. The celebrants were Father Joseph Fornash, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Richard B. Ward and Francis L. King. Interment was in Mt. Lawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dr. James P. Ramsey, Dr. Cyril Riley, Dr. Howard E. Towner, Donald Ramsey, George Drummond and Lacey Doss.

Funeral attendants from New York included Mr. and Mrs. Clifford L. Alexander and Clifford Jr., Mrs. Fredi Washington Bell of Old Greenwich, Conn., and Mrs. Isabel Washington Powell.

MRS. ALEXANDER had no close relatives of her own. In addition to her husband, and the Raymond Alexanders, she is survived by another sister-in-law, Mrs. Irene Jackson, wife of Roosevelt Jackson, a Boston attorney.

Also two nieces, Misses Mary Elizabeth and Rae Pace Alexander of Philadelphia; and two cousins, Mrs. Madeline A. Simmons and Mrs. Frances A. Smith of Washington.

Her husband's foster mother is Mrs. Georgia C. Pace of Philadelphia.

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