

1124, 26th Avenue  
Meridian, Mississippi  
May 6, 1959

The Honorable Thomas C. Hennings  
The United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

We are deeply disturbed with the lack of protection of persons classified as Negroes in southern states and especially in Mississippi. It is obvious that an anti-lynch bill is needed as Mississippi leads all other states in the lynching of Negroes. This is further evidenced by the fact that although men have in some cases admitted lynchings, none of these were ever convicted. Mississippi Courts have refused to convict persons guilty of this vicious crime because they were of the white race.

The "snatch-from-his-cell lynching" of M. C. Parker, Poplarville, Mississippi, Friday night, April 24, 1959, is conclusive evidence that Negro citizens cannot expect any justice or equal protection of the law nor equal protection under the law in the state of Mississippi. This is an outraged expression of the white man in his determination to defy law and order. This is also a part of the massive resistance movement in the South to the May 17, 1954, Supreme court decision.

Numerous national and state officials of Mississippi make speeches to hit Citizens' Councils urging them to defy law and order. This is further emphasized and encouraged by some of the leading newspapers in our state which publish editorials such as the one which appeared in the Meridian Star, Meridian, Mississippi, nine days before the lynching of Parker. A line from this article reads, "On the subject we believe that Mississippi will abound in so-called ignorant and bull-headed people, at least we hope so."

These lynchings will continue until we have national laws with enforcement powers to protect citizenship rights of Negroes.

If we cannot win in the South, and in Mississippi in particular, America cannot win as a nation. Therefore, we appeal to you for meaningful civil rights which will cover the entire Civil Rights field.

Very sincerely yours,

C. R. Darden, President  
Mississippi State Conference of NAACP  
Member, National Board Directors of NAACP  
New York, N. Y.