

NEWS FROM

NAACP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET
ROY WILKINS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890
HENRY LEE MOON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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LYNCHING OF SCHOOLBOY LAID TO WHITE
SUPREMACY DRIVE IN MISSISSIPPI

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NEW YORK, Sept. 1.--Following the lynching in Mississippi of a 14-year-old Negro boy whose body was found yesterday, the top officer of the NAACP charged that "it would appear from this lynching that the State of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

In a statement, issued yesterday, Roy Wilkins added: "The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency."

Mr. Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, simultaneously dispatched a telegram to the Hon. Hugh White, governor of Mississippi, asserting:

"... All decent citizens throughout the nation call upon you to use all the powers of your office to see that the lynchers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till are brought to justice. We cannot believe that responsible officials of the State of Mississippi condone the murdering of children on any provocation."

A reply received from Gov. White at NAACP headquarters here today said, in part:

"Parties charged with murder are in jail and I have every reason to believe the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

The youthful lynch victim, who was visiting an uncle in Money, Miss., while on vacation from his native city of Chicago, was kidnapped from his uncle's residence on Aug. 27 by two white men and a woman. Roy Bryant of Money, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., admitted kidnapping the boy but insisted they released him unharmed. The two men, arrested for kidnapping, now are being held on a murder charge.

The woman in the case, Mrs. Bryant, has disappeared. A warrant charging kidnapping has been issued against her.

The body of the schoolboy was found in the Tallahatchie River near Greenwood, Miss., with a bullet through the head. The boy's head also bore the marks of a beating

with a heavy instrument.

Cause for the lynching is said to be Mrs. Bryant's offense because the 14-year-old lad whistled at her.

In Chicago, where the victim's mother lives, the local NAACP branch telegraphed President Eisenhower and Attorney General Herbert Brownell for a federal investigation of the crime.

At a press conference today, Governor White announced that he has instructed the district attorney to make a complete investigation of the killing.

The last recorded lynching in the U.S. occurred in 1951, in Winter Garden, Fla., according to NAACP records.