

NEGROES RIOT IN GADSDEN TO PROTEST DOOM

Eight Under Sentence to
Chair Put in Irons

**GUARDS ENTERED AND
SUBDUED RIOTERS**

Oaths Hurlled at Court, of-
ficers and White Peo-
ple Were Heard Far

GADSDEN, April 10 (AP)—Pro-

testing against their sentences, eight

negroes condemned to death at

Scottsboro yesterday, rioted in the

Etowah county jail, and only sub-

sided after extra guards had been

summoned and they were placed in

irons.

The negroes, Clarence Norris, 19,

Eugene Williams, 19, Heywood Pat-

terson, 17, Andy Wright 17 all of

Chattanooga; Charlie Weems 20, and

Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta; Willie

Roberson, 17, Columbus, Ga., and

Olen Montgomery 17, of Monroe,

Ga., were brought here under mili-

tary escort, with Roy Wright, 14,

whose case resulted in a mistrial.

The others were all convicted by

juries.

The 14 year old negro was con-

finned in a separate cell and did not

participate in the riot.

Sheriff Griffin said this morning

all was quiet and that during the

day the negroes would be removed

to Kilby prison. The sheriff express-

ed the belief that the negroes had

sought to lure the jailer into the

"bull pen" to quiet them, so they

could overpower him and escape.

The negroes who were returned

here under military escort after be-

ing sentenced for attacks on two

Huntsville girls aboard a freight

train, shouted demands for special

food, beat on the cell bars and tore

up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court,

officers and white people generally

were heard some distance from the

jail, and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who

occupies an apartment on the lower

floor of the jail, removed his fam-

ily for the night.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to mili-

tary authorities for aid, and Col.

W. M. Thompson, commanding the

167th infantry, and Capt. C. C.

Whitehead, commanding Co. F., of

the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent

an attempted break, the "bull pen"

in which the negroes were confined

was opened, and guards went in and

subdued the negroes, handcuffing

them in pairs.

Extra guards were placed on the

jail throughout the night and today,

pending removal of the negroes to

Kilby prison at Montgomery.

When finally quieted and asked

what was the matter, one of the ne-

groes replied, "We just don't like

that death sentence."

Welcome Investigation

FORT PAYNE, April 10 (AP)—

Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge

who sentenced eight negroes to

death at Scottsboro, Ala., yesterday

following conviction of attacking

two white girls, today reiterated his

previous statement that he would

welcome an investigation of the

trials which the International Labor

Defense of New York has said it

will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Haw-

kins said. "I still say I will wel-

come any investigation of the trial

they want to make. However, it

seems to me that they are investi-

gating at the wrong time. I won-

der what interests they have in the

case and whether the defendants

are members of the organization?"

Judge Hawkins came here yester-

day after discharging the jury in

the fourth case which resulted in a

mistrial because seven of the jurors

held out for a death penalty for Roy

Wright, 14 year old Chattanooga ne-

gro, for whom the state had asked

life imprisonment.

In its telegram to the judge, the

International Labor Defense said an

attorney was being sent to investi-

gate, "meantime, we demand stay of

execution and opportunity to investi-

gate and prepare for new trial or

appeal. We demand the right for

our attorney to interview defend-

ants and obtain formal approval of

defense counsel. And above all we

demand absolute safety for defend-

ants against lynching."

During the trials at Scottsboro,

the International Labor Defense

wired Judge Hawkins a protest

"against an attempt at legal lync-

ing of nine young negro workers on

framed up assault charges.

The judge in reply said the defend-

ants were being given a fair trial

and he would welcome an investiga-

tion. He was joined by the solicitor

and Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga,

chief of defense counsel, in declar-

ing the trials fair and just.

A Bunch of Telegrams

MONTGOMERY, April 10 (AP)—

Governor B. M. Miller said today he

had received three telegrams from

New York organizations protesting

against the trials of the nine ne-

groes at Scottsboro on attack

charges which were being filed and

on which he had no comment to

make.

The International Labor Defense

sent one of the telegrams, demand-

ing stay of execution and protesting

"this legal lynching."

The League of Struggle for Negro

Rights, of New York, sent a tele-

gram signed by B. D. Amis, presi-

dent, charging the trials were a

"deliberate frameup" and that the

negroes were "railroaded to the

chair."

The third telegram was signed

Robert W. Dunn, president of the

Anti-Imperialist League of the Uni-

ted States, which said the sentenc-

ing in 48 hours "was just such meth-

ods as are used by American imper-

ialists in Caribbean countries

where Latin-American and negro

peons are being executed without

trial. We demand the unconditional

release of these workers."

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