

Judge J. A. Hawkins Undaunted By Threatening Telegrams From International Labor Defense

The law of savage is "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." It is the spirit of revenge carries to the point of reprisal.

This same spirit survives in some of our American laws. In many states, he who kills his fellow man must pay with his life if convicted of wilful murder. This is nothing more than a primal law translated into modern usage. Perhaps it is the best method of punishing murderers.

In Alabama the ravishing of women carries with it upon conviction of same the death penalty. And now because the guilty parties at the Scottsboro trial happen to be negroes, the International Labor Defense has taken upon itself to meddle and to issue threatening telegrams to Judge J. A. Hawkins, who presided over the trials of the nine negroes charged with criminal assault of two Huntsville girls. Personally we believe that each of the negroes was given a fair and impartial trial, that each had been given his day in court and was given every protection afforded any defendant.

While we did not hear the testimony in the case, we remain content in our belief that the negroes were guilty and conviction was no more than was coming to them. We admire the Judge for his courage and for the expeditions and fair manner in which he proceeded to the trial of these culprits. He was undaunted in his stand to see that justice was administered and without delay, despite the demands made in the telegrams sent by George Maurer, head of the International Labor Defense. The wording of the telegrams were insinuating and since there were no just grounds for their issuance it would seem that an apology should be forthcoming from this "friend of guilty."
