



VEGA LODGE

— I. O. G. T. —

1535 NINTH STREET

LODGE MEETING
EVERY THURSDAY EVE.
8 O'CLOCK

TRUSTEES MEET
2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

JUNIOR LODGE

Scottsboro

ROCKFORD, ILL.

May 15, 1931

Governor B. M. Miller
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Sir:

It has come to our knowledge through the press that eight negro youths have been sentenced to death in the electric chair and one to life imprisonment in Scottsboro, Ala. after being convicted of attacking two white girls on a train.

We quote the American Civil Liberties Union, 100 Fifth Ave., New York City on the matter.

1. The trial was rushed without time for adquate defense, the boys being arrested on March 25th and tried 12 days later. The court refused a postponement. The boys were represented only by an attorney appointed by the court and by a Chattanooga lawyer, unknown to them, selected by a ministers' association.

2. Though the hysterical state of public opinion in Scottsboro made a fair trial impossible, yet the judge refused a change of venue. The courtroom was surrounded during the trial by a crowd reliably estimated at 10,000 and by 1,000 soldiers called out by the governor to prevent threatened lynchings and disorder. The verdicts therefore were a foregone conclusion.

3. The two white girls, the only witnesses against the boys, told conflicting and confused stories.

Therefore, be it resolved that we the undersigned, Vega Lodge #40, I.O.G.T. (International Order of Good Templars) in meeting assembled May 14, 1931, decided to inform your Honor of our opinion in the matter. As an organization that stands for personal rights and liberties in the truest sense of the word, we demand that a new trial will be granted and a change of venue to another court.

Respectfully yours,

Vega Lodge #40, I.O.G.T.

A. Olson Pres.

C. Nelson Sec'ry.

