Scottsboro

Fackler, Ala. R.I.
May 5, 1931.

Governor B. M. Miller,
Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Governor Miller:-

In regard to the negroes that were tried in special term of Jackson Co. Circuit court for rape.

I served on the jury before whom the five were tried.

When the first verdict was returned I was in Davis' store, some little distance (not a great distance) from the court house. I heard some little commotion on the street in front of the store. On going out I asked "why the fuss"? The answer, "The verdict has been returned. The electric chair".

What I am wanting to make plain to you, Governor, is that hearing this had no influence whatever on my decision. We, the jury acted solely according to the evidence produced. And had the girls been black as ebony and the boys as white as an Easter lily I would have acted just as I did, and I am positive the other eleven would have voted the same.

I have been requested to sign an affidavit

Over.

stating that I heard the cheering.

Again I say, I did hear some "fuss" in the street. But this had nothing whatever to do with my decision

We acted only according to the laws of our state and the evidence that was produced.

We have good laws if they are inforced, But what account are they if not inforced?

And I believe, and will continue to until evidence proves different, that we have a Governor who will use his utmost power to see the laws inforced to the point, and see that everyone gets justice.

Governor, is this not justice?

If we do not protect our women from such brutality as this, what is to become of them, of us for permitting it?

If only you could have heard the evidence as it came from the lips of the state's witnesses!

Yours for better law (inforcement) and order.

T. Gaines Elkins.