Deathor

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May 25, 1932

His Excellency, the
Governor of Alabama,
Montgomery, Alabama.

Sir:

Am enclosing herewith an editorial clipped from the Manchester Guardian of Manchester, England.

I sincerely trust that you will allow the opportunity of a review of these convictions by the United States Supreme Court.

Very respectfully,

Harry O. Glasser

HG:LV

Harry O. Glasser
Former State Senator of
the State of Oklahoma.

Still Time for Justice

The world has just been profoundly shocked by a particularly senseless and cruel example of political assassination; unless the Governor of Alabama intervenes with a reprieve which will allow a much-discussed case to be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States there is the gravest risk that all those who care for law, order, and the decencies of civilised life will suffer another horrid shock. Friday, June 24, has been fixed for the execution of seven negro youths, not one of them older than twenty years, who were tried at Scottsboro, Alabama, a year ago on a charge of having raped two white girls of bad reputation. In the beginning nine negro boys were arraigned on the same charge of rape, after being arrested in the first place on a charge of vagrancy arising out of a fight with some white youths. The charge of rape was added later when two of the negroes' travelling companions were found to be white girls of the looser sort. In the case of one boy—aged fourteen—the jury could not agree; the remaining eight were sentenced to death. One of them—a child of thirteen when he was charged—has been put back for another trial; the remaining seven, whose sentence has been confirmed by the Supreme Court of Alabama, are to die on June 24. It is a tangled and evil tale of negroes, "poor whites," and racial jealousy, complicated by this time with Communist propaganda and disputes over the conduct of such defence as there has been. But the main point is this; that in no other civilised country could such a trial have been held and such sentences pronounced. Even a month ago the "Times" New York correspondent was writing:

> Outside the South the case is very generally regarded as an example of "legal lynching"; and even in the South there are many who admit that the evidence against the boys is as flimsy as it well could be, and only support their conviction on social and political grounds.

The truth is that if these seven boys are done to death next month a blacker chapter will have been written in the history of the Southern States than any which records the numerous mob lynchings in those regions, for this lamentable affair has every appearance of mass lynching by legal process. There is still time for the word of restraint—not from the voice of mercy, but from the voice of reason, justice, and self-respect.