

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DIVISION OF FIELD SERVICE

MAUD KEATOR  
Special Education and Standards

July 25, 1933

Hartford, Connecticut

*Keator*

Governor B. M. Miller,  
State Capitol,  
Montgomery, Alabama.

Your Excellency:

I wish to add my plea to the countless others you have doubtless received asking for the release of the Scottsboro negro boys.

As a native of Alabama, having been born in Decatur near the scene of the trial, I am sincerely interested in this case, and I earnestly hope that the people of the state will not allow such gross injustice as the electrocution of these innocent boys. Such procedure must surely elicit the disapproval and scorn of the entire nation, or at least those enlightened states which are not so benighted by bigoted racial prejudice.

I have always deplored the motto of my native state "Here We Rest" in comparing it with the motto of the state of my Alma Mater (the University of Wisconsin) whose watchword is "FORWARD". Alabama will not only "Rest" but will definitely go backward if she tolerates the murder of these negro boys who, because of their color, are unjustly discriminated against.

Having been a State Child Labor Inspector in the Alabama Child Welfare Department, I know the benighted attitude prevalent among the majority of white employers with regard to negro child labor, and I am acquainted with some of the grave injustices that had to be tolerated simply because public opinion in the state was not educated to the fact that child labor laws were enacted for the protection of the black as well as the white child.

It is quite obvious that if these nine Scottsboro boys were white they would have been released long ago. The Civil War is over and most of our grandparents who fostered this racial intolerance among us of the South are dead and silenced. The marked decrease in lynchings in the South over the past few years shows that we have made progress in changing our attitudes. Why not change the motto of our state from "HERE WE REST" to "LET'S GO!"

Yours sincerely,

*Ruth Pointer*