

The lynching here was nothing more or less than a local revolt against Communistic influences that had made its appearance for several weeks previously. Inspired by such teachings, the mob's victim, by his own confession, killed his employer and planned to murder "four or five other people."

We have yet to hear in this city or in other Eastern Shore counties mob violence condoned as a method of supplanting established courts of justice. We have heard many responsible citizens state they would give their individual fortunes if the clocks could be turned back to December 4, and the lives of the murdered man and the mob's victim restored.

Yet our citizens are unwilling to see innocent persons—whether it be Governor Ritchie or any one of the hundreds of spectators—criticized or punished for an affair to which they were not a party.

Any attempt on the part of political gossips to capitalize upon this incident to injure the respect the American people have for Governor Ritchie can do nothing but react against his adversaries.

As chief executive of this state since 1919, Governor Ritchie's achievements in statecraft and his capacity as a statesman, is a record open to the closest scrutiny. His views on national and international affairs have frequently been placed before the country through the press and radio. It is in these matters, and not such an isolated incident as the lynching here, that the rank and file of voters seek to determine the calibre of a man for the president of the United States.