

# DEMAND STATE ACT IN LYNCHING

## Officials Condemn Salisbury Mob Attack on Negro

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quality of our people. While I do not yet know full details of the crime, I feel that the leaders should be prosecuted."

LOUIS BERGER, secretary of the International Labor Defense, in a telegram to Governor Ritchie last night:

"The International Labor Defense has repeatedly notified you of the existence of lynch mobs on the Eastern Shore bent on lynching Negroes in order to terrorize the working population.

"We gave you the names of the mob leaders, but you refused to arrest them. We warned you after the attack on Davis that your refusal to prosecute the lynchers would cause more trouble. You thanked us for our opinion and did nothing.

"Judge Pattison told you of conditions on the 'Shore, but you make no arrangements to protect Davis and Jones at their trials. Thus encouraged by you, the mob lynches Matthew Williams. We charge you with his death."

TURNKEY M. L. HAYS, of Salisbury Jail: "There was no way to prevent the lynching. The mob was determined—and grew within a few moments to such proportions that it was impossible to interfere with the hanging."

COL. WASHINGTON BOWIE, of Maryland National Guard: "I do not know what action will be taken in this case. We have as yet received no orders to go to any point on the Eastern Shore."

STATE'S ATTORNEY JAMES A. McALLISTER, of Dorchester County: "I cannot see that this demonstration in Salisbury had any effect on the status of the proposed murder trial of Orphan Jones here Tuesday. I have not yet decided on what action I will take in the matter."

BERNARD ADES, attorney for International Labor Defense: "It was to be expected. We place the entire blame at the feet of Governor Ritchie. He has been repeatedly warned of the danger of mob violence on the Eastern Shore."

STATE'S ATTORNEY L. C. BAILEY, of Salisbury: "I will open an immediate investigation of the case. I cannot say at this time what action will be taken, however."

STATE'S ATTORNEY GODFREY CHILD, of Snow Hill: "The public feeling which brought about this lynching was caused on the Eastern Shore by the International Labor Defense, of Baltimore, interfering with the process of law and justice. If they do not quit meddling, there may be even more serious consequences."

CHIEF OF POLICE MICHAEL HOLLAND, of Salisbury: "No force of officers could have stopped that mob last night or prevented lynching of that Negro."

JAMES M. HEPBRON, head of the Baltimore Criminal Justice Commission: "Lynchings are never justified in a civilized country. I am an Eastern Shoreman myself, and I certainly deplore this horrible affair of last night."

RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL, of Har Sinai Congregation: "This lynching is a challenge to the constituted authorities of our state. We will now see whether there will be the usual travesty of a coroner's inquest with a verdict of 'death by persons unknown' when everybody knows who did it, or whether we will have a reaction that will reflect the dignity of the State of Maryland. I expect to prepare a paper on this affair to be read in my pulpit. I wonder what will be the attitude of the churches on the Eastern Shore. Certainly the mob was not composed entirely of men not members of churches."

CHIEF JUDGE JOHN R. PATTISON, of the first judicial district, in which Salisbury is located, declined today to comment on the lynching.

"I do not want to make any public statement about it," Judge Pattison said. He also declined to say whether the affair had changed his views on the removal of the Orphan Jones trial from the Eastern Shore."