

SPECIAL JURY WILL PROBE SHO' LYNCHING

**Wicomico County Body Will Be
Called Within 30 Days**

To Act

INVESTIGATION NEARS END

**Attorney General Lane Has
Report Nearly Completed**

A special session of the Wicomico County grand jury will be called within 30 days to consider evidence in connection with the lynching of Matt Williams, alleged Negro slayer, in Salisbury, Md., on Dec. 4.

This was regarded as a certainty today, when it was announced the report being compiled by Attorney General William Preston Lane Jr. is near completion.

Lane has been conducting an investigation into the lynching on order of Governor Ritchie "to ascertain complete facts and proceed with vigorous prosecution."

Lane's Report Nearly Complete

Asked when his investigation would be completed and a detailed report filed, the Attorney General said:

"We have made considerable progress with the investigation. A report will be completed within the very near future, and copies forwarded to Governor Ritchie and the State's Attorney of Wicomico County."

It was pointed out by Eastern Shore officials that prosecution of those responsible for the mob murder must be instituted by State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey, of Salisbury, as the Attorney General has no power to directly proceed with the prosecution.

No Coroner's Inquest

Also, it was indicated that the coroner's inquest previously planned will be "passed up" in favor of the special grand jury session.

Lane refused to discuss the possibility of a special grand jury session, but said that whatever prosecution is instituted must eventually go before the Wicomico grand jury, as this body has sole powers in the matter.

If the Wicomico jury refuses to indict, the case must be dropped.

The Attorney General has for several weeks been working with State's Attorney Bailey in the investigation and has made two trips to the Eastern Shore.

"There are some details that are not yet cleared up, but we are not letting the investigation lag for one instant," Lane explained. "We are proceeding as rapidly as possible."

Hanged in Square

The slain Negro, Matt Williams, was dragged from a hospital cot in Salisbury after he is said to have shot and killed a prominent Salisbury manufacturer. He was hanged in the courthouse square, and later his body dragged through the main streets of the city and burned.

More than 2,000 persons are said to have witnessed the lynching and subsequent burning of the body.

State's Attorney Bailey has repeatedly stated that he not only will prosecute mob leaders, but will prosecute every person whom he finds was a member of the mob.

The Attorney General refused to indicate how many persons are implicated in the lynching and burning according to the evidence already gathered by his office and by Baltimore detectives.