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# MOB VIOLENCE, KIDNAPING AND SYSTEMATIC EXCLUSION

By JAMES M. WARD

(An Editorial)

The entire nation has been plunged into deep, black mourning because a savage Negro rapist was kidnaped from his jail cell in South Mississippi.

As a result, the whole wide world is now engaged in unanimous condemnation of kidnaping, mob violence and racial intolerance. As far as the Poplarville incident is concerned this newspaper did not join the refrain — we sang the first bar, for the editor of the Jackson Daily News was up with a telephone call shortly after the incident was reported. Our condemnation of this crime began at 3 a.m. last Saturday when the vast majority of America's newspaper people were placidly asleep.

In connection with crimes involving the two races in the South, much is said about kidnaping, mobs and systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries.

While we sincerely abhor kidnaping, mobs and other forms of violence and intolerance against races and individuals, these same crimes often wear handsome clothes of deceit.

For instance, the very laws of Mississippi and other Southern states have been snatched from our grasp and legal control. Because of political atmosphere, contaminated public opinion and for other unstable reasons, the U. S. Supreme Court has seen fit to nullify our laws which were designed and did provide equal justice in local courts. Our state laws have been literally kidnaped by distant powers.

It was an original contention of this newspaper five years ago that bloodshed would result from the 1954 school integration decision by the U.S. Supreme Court and that responsibility for those bloodstains would lie on the marbled walls of that court. The Dallas Morning News has editorially linked the Poplarville incident to that decision, and details of its intelligent and eloquent view may be found on the editorial page in this issue.

The cases where Federal courts have ruled against Southern state courts on crimes involving the two races are too numerous to list, but since this is National Law Week and since advocates of social experimentation and other more sincere people are screaming loudly this week about honoring laws, perhaps some federal judges should be reminded that state laws, too, are equally sacred and deserve respect.

Mob violence shocks every decent-thinking American. Mob violence manifests itself in many forms. There is a mob violence going on in the field of public opinion — newspapers, television sets, radio units and speechmakers are guilty of mob violence when they train their nasty propaganda guns on a region with a purpose of destroying its soul, laws, customs, courts, officials; and if their obvious hatred is taken at full face value these same mobsters would delight in dropping a super-hydrogen bomb to melt the land, water, insects, humans and all other creatures and material things from the face of the earth. This to us is the very ultimate in mob violence performed in the name of pious intolerance.

While politically appointed federal judges are kidnaping our courts and laws and justice to establish a new order which grants immunity of rape, ravage and murder to selected pets upon the heels of mob violence

in public opinion, the charge is made that all of this punishment is awarded to the South because it systematically excludes Negroes from juries.

This cute little idea springs from the U. S. Supreme Court and its rubberized line of decisions on the subject.

There is not a single Negro on the highest court of the land which edicts the "law of the land."

But wait!

Every President of the United States from George Washington to Dwight D. Eisenhower has seen fit, by executive power and political appointment, not to name a Negro to the U. S. Supreme Court. Is this systematic exclusion of Negroes?

While we do not advocate a deviation from previous policy for the sake of political expediency, we do say with all the "Southern bigotry" with which we are accused — but deny — that the degeneration of our Federal courts and laws could hardly be worse if nine illiterate Negroes from Virginia constituted the present high court, which attaches to itself an air of God-like perfection in administering justice.

What great power possesses a U. S. Supreme Court which claims it is the ultimate in adjudication to accuse a Mississippi jury of not determining justice when it is even moreso guilty of systematic exclusion of Negroes from its ranks?

Mob violence being a sin and a shame, what great purity is claimed by the brainwashing resources of press, television, radio and speechmakers of America to abhor mob violence against an individual and yet exercise that same wickedness in fullest wrath against millions of individuals in the South?

What great sanctity lies within an editor in New York, Milwaukee, Detroit, Chicago, Portland, St. Louis, Des Moines, Akron or Philadelphia to criticize a band of thugs in Poplarville when they sit unshaken while their very cities feel the unholy blasts of dynamite in labor union strikes, interracial rapings, murder, muggings, gangland switchblade knifings, bank banditry, acid-tossing by underworld critters and dope addicts?

What great blessed deity possesses that noble batch of liberal senators who are shocked that one human being has been hauled from his jail cell while they sit idly by—even aid and abet—Federal encroachment and kidnaping of state laws and justice from courthouses, causing unpredictable bloodshed to hundreds of people?

While law-abiding Southern people abhor kidnaping, mob violence and racial intolerance, it is a condemnation that is sincere and honest and not one with a political tongue-in-the-cheek and a jealous economic smirk on the face.

Carlyle once said: "Men seldom, or rather never for a length of time and deliberately, rebel against anything that does not deserve rebelling against."

Since this is National Law Week, now is the time to condemn with national finality acts of kidnaping of laws, mob violence of public opinion, racial and regional intolerance against millions of people — as well as to abhor one overly dramatized case which captures votes, generates hate, arouses jealousy, causes crimes, stirs suspicion and systematically excludes.

"Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward all men EVERYWHERE", said a voice from outer space.