

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching

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JESSIE DANIEL AMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
710 STANDARD BUILDING

Atlanta, Ga.

October 18, 1937

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ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION TO PREVENT LYNCHING

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

SOUTHERN INTERSTATE CONFERENCE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
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NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

GENERAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CLUBS

My dear Council Members:

As you know, the President has called a special session of Congress for November 15. The Wagner-Van Nuys Antilynching Bill is almost sure to come up for consideration unless, in some astute way, it is blocked in the Senate. You may recall that when Congress adjourned it was agreed by Majority Leader Barkley that that measure would be given the second position on the calendar when Congress reconvened.

There is one thing that we should do this month and all of you who receive this letter have an obligation to perform in this connection. When the Bill was being debated in the lower house there were a few speeches made in defense of lynching as being necessary for the protection of white women. Will you please write at once to your United States Senators, telling them that above everything Southern white women do not want to be used as an argument for lynching; we do not want ourselves dragged across the newspapers as recipients of a lawless and destructive type of violence, which we appear to accept as a greater protection to us than are the courts and the Constitution. This will require of you just two letters: one to each of your Senators. But, please, I urge you, write at once before Congress convenes. You may have to follow this up again during the Christmas Holidays, but now while the Senators have a certain amount of leisure to read and ponder their mail is the time to get in the first stroke.

We have had another lynching since the September letter -- at Milton, Florida. A Negro was taken from the Sheriff and lynched. He was accused of committing an unnatural crime against a white boy and of holding up a filling station. This makes unquestionably eight lynchings this year - the decision on a ninth one is still in abeyance. All victims were Negroes, all in the South.

Cordially yours,

Jessie Daniel Ames

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