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April 11, 1933.

Hon. James E. Horton,  
Decatur, Alabama.

Dear Judge Horton:

I take the liberty of enclosing herewith an editorial, clipped by me from the Baltimore Sun, relating to your serene and inflexibly judicial bearing during the recent trial which has brought your name so prominently to the public attention.

It would ill become me, of course, to press any opinion in this letter as to the merits of the verdict which was rendered by the jury in the case, but, being the son of an old Virginia planter and slave-owner, I can not but rejoice that a judicial exponent of all that is best in the mind and conscience of our Southern social life should, on such a conspicuous occasion, have exercised his exalted function in such a manner as to satisfy not only the leading attorney for the defense but even those of us who know that the real motive back of the defense in that case, so far as its relationships outside of Alabama are concerned, is the desire of the Communist element in the United States to use the most ignorant and backward element in our American population as an instrument for the promotion of its revolutionary designs.

The same external interference is at work in this State, too, in the case of a negro monster, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, who wiped out, at a single stroke, the lives of four innocent human beings - a father, a mother, and two daughters - and has yet, for nearly two years, as the result of one technicality after another, set up by New York and Maryland Communists, been kept from the just fate to which



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two impartial juries has consigned him.

Yes, let us Southerners maintain the calm sanctuary of justice in the South free from all racial prejudice or bias, but at the same time, all the extra-judicial agencies of our Southern State Governments, with that stern resolution of purpose with which the South has met every crisis in its checkered history, see to it that the negro is not made the blind and infatuated tool of the Bolshevist. Of course, I feel, too, that our conduct to the negro himself, in and out of court, should always be such, in point of fair and enlightened treatment, as to make it impossible for the Bolshevist in the South to win even his ear.

With great respect, I am,

Truly yours,



l/m

Enc.