

Truman to Meet Crusade Leaders

By Claudia Jones

President Truman will meet with a delegation of sponsors of the American Crusade to End Lynchings when it convenes in Washington, D. C., next Monday, Sept. 23, chairman Paul Robeson announced at a press conference yesterday.

Sharply critical of the fact that "not an indictment, not a conviction" has been made by the Federal Government to punish the lynchers, despite the wave of mob violence sweeping across America, Robeson said that the delegation would ask for immediate arrest of the lynchers, and a clear-cut policy of support by Truman for an anti-lynch bill in the next session of Congress.

Present at the conference with Robeson were Prof. Harlow Shapley, Mrs. Harper Sibley, Dr. Max Yergan, Aubrey Williams and Edward E. Strong.

Aubrey Williams, just returned from his native Alabama, told reporters that lynch terror against Negro citizens "was virtually the most critical problem facing the American people today on the domestic scene."

Williams documented the "tense" situation in Montgomery, Ala., where, only last week, he said, race-inciting forces spread a rumor that threatened to cause another situation like Columbia, Tenn.

Prof. Harlow Shapley read to reporters a letter which he is sending to President Truman urging his "personal intervention and official stand on lynch terror."

Mrs. Harper Sibley of the United Council of Church Women said that white women in Atlanta, Ga., following the footsteps of their anti-slavery sisters of 75 years ago, protested the Monroe lynchings and would fight for an end to lynch terror.

Three key demands will be put forth by the Washington pilgrimage: (1) apprehension and punishment of every lyncher; (2) passage of a Federal anti-lynching bill; (3) keeping the Klan out of Congress—no Senate seat for Bilbo.

Conference sessions will be held in Washington's Labor Auditorium.

The New York delegation will leave by special train from Pennsylvania Station at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 23. Roundtrip tickets and registration cost \$10 and may be secured from the office of the American Crusade, 23 W. 26 St., the Civil Rights Congress, 112 E. 19 St.; IWO, 80 Fifth Ave., and the American Youth For Democracy, 150 Nassau St., all in Manhattan.

Tenn. Judge Holds Defense Lawyers in Contempt of Court

By Harry Raymond

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn., Sept. 18.—Dr. Leon A. Ransom and Maurice M. Weaver, defense attorneys in the trial of the 25 Columbia Negroes, were held in contempt of court today by an angry trial judge.

Judge Joe M. Ingram fined the two lawyers \$25 each as they stepped into the courtroom 25 minutes late.

Ransom explained the lateness was caused by a tire blowout on the automobile carrying them from Nashville.

Ingram had threatened earlier to hold the defense lawyers in contempt when they clashed with him on legal matters.

Raymond Dunn, 30-year-old truck driver, was selected today as alternate juror. Defense counsel objected to the seating of Dunn, charging the venireman had been insufficiently examined on matters of opinion, race prejudice and law.

JURY READY

A jury of 12 men and one alternate were in the box at noon, exactly five weeks and two days after the first venireman was called for examination.

Theodore Hillhouse, who testified he was a Ku Klux Klan member during the Alfred E. Smith Presi-

dential campaign, would have been the 13th juror if Ransom had not exercised a peremptory challenge.

Judge Ingram qualified this Klansman as a juror. Assistant District Attorney Hugh Shelton accepted Hillhouse, who was eyeing the alternate juror's seat with an air of hope. He lost his chance to sit in judgment of the Negroes when Ransom said: "We'll excuse him peremptorily."

Other veniremen, who testified they knew persons who went to Columbia when a lynch mob sought a Negro Navy veteran and his mother, were likewise qualified by Ingram and removed by the defense.

At least 10 of the veniremen questioned for the alternate's post declared deep prejudice against Negroes. Judge Ingram declared them "qualified" when they testified they could give "justice."

District Attorney Bumpus announced he would introduce the first witnesses for the prosecution tomorrow morning.

MILITARY HEADS DENY URGING ATOMBOMB ATTACK ON USSR

War and Navy Department heads were today busy denying the statement in Henry A. Wallace's letter that one school of military thought advocated "an attack on Russia now before Russia has atomic bombs."

The denial, released by the White House, was in the form of a joint letter by Secretary of War Robert Patterson and Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. They said that "we know of no responsible officer in the Army or Navy who has ever advocated or even suggested a policy or plan of attacking Russia."