

WB:FGF:lw

158260-70

July 23, 1942

George Earl Hoffman, Esq.,
United States Attorney,
Pensacola, Florida.



Dear Mr. Hoffman:

Re: Alleged lynching of A. C. Williams,
Quincy, Florida, May 12, 1941

Reference is made to your letter of July 14, 1942, embodying your report on the above entitled matter and transmitting a report made by a special investigator for the Governor of Florida, a report of the investigation made by State Attorney Orion C. Parker, and a transcript of the inquest before the coroner of Gadsden County, Florida.

Your report has been carefully considered, together with the attached materials. As you note, the behavior of the law enforcement officials in Quincy, Florida, may be subject to criticism on the basis of ineptitude and negligence, but it does not appear that any willful or intentional refusal to protect A. C. Williams was involved. The fact that the sheriff notified the judge of the second judicial circuit after the first seizure of Williams indicates that he was acting in good faith and was seeking to make proper arrangements for the custody of his prisoner. The Department is satisfied from your able report that criminal proceedings against the police authorities of Quincy are not warranted.

Although an investigation for the purpose of assisting the local authorities might have been worth while at an earlier time, it is felt that such steps should not be taken at this time. You are advised therefore that the file in this matter is being closed.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.



7.9.7.
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