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M. P. LUTEN  
Sheriff Gadsden County  
Quincy, Florida  
May 14, 1941

Governor Spessard L. Holland  
Tallahassee, Fla.

My Dear Governor:

On Saturday night May 10th, a negro made an attack on a 12 year old white girl in Quincy. This was done without being reported to my office. This negro was caught by the Police Department and placed in the County Jail and the matter was not called to my attention until about 9 o'clock Sunday morning. When this matter was called to my attention it was reported to me that he was charged with breaking and entering and was being held on this charge.

On Sunday night at about 12 o'clock four masked men forced Dan Davis a night policeman to turn over his keys and the negro was taken from the jail and an attempt made to lynch him on the outskirts of the City limits, the mob locking Davis in the Jail when they left with the negro. It was generally thought that the negro had been lynched and his body destroyed throughout the day Monday. I went to this negro's mother on Monday afternoon and asked if she knew anything of his whereabouts and she said that she did not. At about 10:30 o'clock on Monday night this negro's Mother did come to my house and advise me that the negro had made his way to her house. I at once went to Judge E. C. Love for advice as to what to do in the matter. Judge Love advised me to have the negro examined by a Doctor, and if found to be in condition to have the negro undertake here transfer him to Tallahassee for hospital treatment. This I did do or tried to do believing that no one would suspect that anything unusual was happening.

When the ambulance was about three miles out of town it was held up by a masked mob and the negro removed and lynched. You can readily see that the facts in this case was kept from me until it was too late for me to realize the seriousness of the case. I regret beyond words of expression what has happened and only wish that I had known the seriousness of the charge from the start. I know that you are busy especially during the session of the Legislature, however, if you would care to discuss this case further I will be glad to come over and talk to you at any time.

Yours very truly,  
/s/ M. P. Lutten  
Sheriff