

Typed March 8, 1956

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March 8, 1956

144-40-116

Mr. Max B. Berking
Drake-Smith Lane
Rye, New York

Dear Mr. Berking:



This acknowledges your letter of March 5, 1956 concerning the alleged kidnapping and killing of Emmett Louis Till recently in the State of Mississippi. Your letter indicates that you feel that this Department should institute prosecution against the person or persons responsible therefor.

While we fully understand the motive prompting this appeal to us, available information indicates that since Emmett Till was not transported across state lines, these regrettable acts involve violations of Mississippi laws only, and not of any federal statute. This Department, therefore, has no authority to undertake any action in connection with the matter.

Sincerely,

WARREN OLNEY III
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:
ARTHUR B. CALDWELL
Chief, Civil Rights Section

CC: Records ✓
Chrono
Blair (2)
C.R. Section



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