DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

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CRIMINAL DIVISION

WB:FC:JBT
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Jackson, Mississippi
November 2, 1942

Hon. Wendell Berge
Ass't. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Re: Lynching of Charles Lang and
Ernest Green - Shubuta, Miss.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of October 13, 1942, I have the honor to report that this letter arrived at the Jackson Office while we were attending a Term of Court at Hattiesburg.

We too have seen the press reports of the lynching at Shubuta. Immediately on our return to the office and upon receipt of this letter, we contacted the F.B.I., and found that they were already proceeding with the investigation under the directions previously received, I presume, from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At different times we contacted various FBI Agents with reference to the matter, but have just this morning received a report. We have hurriedly perused this lengthy report, and from this report and from conferences held at various times, we have arrived at the conclusion that this was not a mob within the legal meaning of the term, but in all probability these negroes were taken from the jail and lynched by a body of some three to five men, probably relatives of the girl. There is no indication that there was a mob spirit prevalent in the community or that the Sheriff and officers anticipated any trouble. The probability is that the Town Marshal, from whom the keys were obtained, knows more about the matter than he has related. The probability is that he knew some of the parties, and he might possibly have been in league with the parties who took the negroes from the jail.

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From a hurried perusal of the report it does not appear, or at least we do not get the impression that the Sheriff was negligent in view of the fact that there was nothing to indicate that a mob was being formed. Of course,

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we know that in all probability some of the witnesses interviewed in this case know more about it than they have told. We feel that you should be made acquainted with all the information which we possess, and for that reason we are forwarding herewith the report made by Jno. W. T. Falkner, IV, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for your information and study. We invite your consideration of this report, and any suggestions you may have to make with reference to any further investigation or procedure in the matter.

We assure you of our desire to cooperate both with your Department and with the F.B.I. in a full investigation of the matter and the prosecution of the guilty parties. When you have finished with this report, we respectfully request that you return it to this office, in order that we may give it more careful consideration than we have been able to at the present time. This hurried report is made and this report of the F.B.I. is forwarded to your office at this time for the reason that we are now entering into a two-week term of Court here in Jackson, to be followed with a two-week term at Vicksburg.

Please advise of any suggestions you may have to make.

Respectfully,

TOXEY HALL
U. S. ATTORNEY

BY Stewart C Broom
STEWART C. BROOM
ASS'T. U. S. ATTORNEY

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