ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WB:FC:LJD

144-41-5

146-44-5

December 9, 1942

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 1 1943 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM. DIV. - ROTNEM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WENDELL BERGE

Re: Conference at 2:30 P.M.,
Thursday, December 10th,
with William H. Watkins,
attorney, Jackson, Mississippi
-- recent Mississippi lynchings.

FGJ [redacted]

Attached are:

(1) Copy of telegram over your signature to Mr. Watkins, dated December 5, 1942.

(2) Recommended memorandum to the Attorney General for submission Thursday morning.

(3) FGJ [redacted]

FGJ [redacted]

FILED
BY VS
On JAN 15 19..

FOR DEFENSE
BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

FGJ

The facts as to the Howard Wash lynching, which occurred on October 16, 1942, at Laurel, Mississippi, are sufficiently set forth in the memorandum attached.

A week prior to the Wash lynching, two Negro youths, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, age 14 and 15, were taken from the jail at Quitman, Mississippi, and hanged to a bridge. The investigation as yet has not identified any members of the mob, nor has it confirmed delinquency on the part of state officers.

FGJ

The Howard Wash case presents a real opportunity to establish Federal jurisdiction in lynching cases, and we should vigorously prosecute it to that end.

VICTOR W. ROTNEM, Chief
FRANK COLEMAN
Civil Rights Section