

November 20, 1918.

Mr. C. P. Dam,
Kellogg Building,
1425 F Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dam:

I have yours of November 16 and note your reference to our communication with Senator Kenyon and your review of the whole situation. I beg you to believe that it was not my intention to do anything that would show any lack of appreciation for the very generous support which you have given to getting this matter properly before Senator Kenyon and other senators and to insure energetic action in the premises. The only thing I had in mind was that a letter from me to Senator Kenyon might add to his assurance that the matter would be energetically handled from our end. On November 13 I wrote Senator Kenyon in reply to his letter to us, a copy of which I am sending you as I am not certain from your letter whether Senator Kenyon showed you our reply. Further, I wish you to be fully informed in the matter and to take no steps without your full knowledge and consent. In accordance with your letter, I will hereafter communicate anything we have to say about the matter to you.

* As I have told you before, we are going over our lynching data. One of the ideas that we had in mind, about which we would like to ask your judgment, is that of presenting a summary of the lynchings from 1885 to date in the same form as that of the daily over-seas casualty lists which appear in the newspapers throughout the country. This method of presentation would mean the reproduction of the newspaper page type of presentation of the facts. We would list them by states, with the names of the individuals, the town or city in the state, and the alleged crime for which the person was lynched. This type of presentation would be in addition to any other presentation that might be made.

I am sending you an extract from a letter received from Mr. White on Monday, written just after he had visited Quitman. After reading this, you will appreciate the kind of difficulties with which we are confronted in getting our man to come to New York. You will note Mr. White's reference to the alleged fact that eight Negroes, relatives of the persons lynched in May, have since been lynched or disappeared. I am not fully confident that the Dr. (A. N.) Grant (colored) will get this information to us in the same way.

that Mr. White presented his findings. It was our own feeling that Mr. White's presence openly and during the daytime at Suitman would subject him to great danger of personal violence. If we do not hear promptly from Mr. Grant, we could then consider the getting of this information through another investigation, if we can secure the right person.

An ideal method of pushing this case to the bottom would, of course, be that of engaging some white persons, perhaps through one of the well known detective agencies, to go into the community and settle down there, and their being settled in the community would afford them the opportunity of securing a full report of the facts in the case. This would probably be a pretty expensive process, one that I should not wish to undertake until our Anti-Lynching Committee had passed upon it and had seen its way clear to finance. Our funds are limited, though they are adequate to carry out anything that we have undertaken so far. We expect to have a meeting of our Anti-Lynching Committee in Boston during the first week in December at which our President, Mr. Storey, and other members will be present.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

JRS/ER