

LEGAL HINTS

The Emmett Till Trial

by Sidney Redmond



The world watched the murder trial in Sumner, Mississippi, with rapt attention and most of it was shocked at the decision. I believe that many white Mississippians were disappointed in it.

The murder of any child is horrible. The murder of Emmett Till was even worse. The attempt to justify it by offering evidence to prove the 14 year old boy tried to get familiar with the wife of one of the defendants shocked the conscious of the world. The trial judge would not let the evidence go to the jury. He impressed all with his fairness.

This offense shows the heinousness of a lynching for that is exactly what it was. Nothing further can be done about the murder for when a jury acquits the defendant that is the end of the prosecution for that particular crime. But that must not be the end of action by good citizens to see to it that no other lynching occurs. Our country has been humiliated before the world.

The United States needs an anti-lynching law. The status

of our civilization demands it. Many anti-lynching bills have been introduced in Congress in past years but the Southern Democrats never let one come to a vote in the Senate.

St. Louis Negroes led crusades for the election of Senators Symington and Hennings. Neither has been out-spoken or done one thing worthy of mention to help our plight since being in the Senate. Senator Hennings is up for re-election next year. UNITED STATES NEWS said that he is one of the 8 Democrats which the Republicans have the best chance of replacing. Maybe he will become interested in our welfare on the eve of an election.

Let us remember that when the leaders of a political crusade are paid for their efforts, the blind followers like we have been have little to expect. We must start thinking and then we might act wisely. As editor J. E. Mitchell used to say: think, think, think.

Let us dedicate ourselves to the enactment of an anti-lynching law.