WASHINGTON D.C. POST, November 29, 1933.

Cry Against Rolph Defense Of Lynchers Grows Louder

Governors, Civic Bodies Add Their Voices to Condemnation.

San Jose, Calif., Nov. 28 (AP). Sharp phrases of condemnation flashed across the continent today revealing the attitude of governors, civic organizations and prominent individuals toward lynching and particularly toward the summary hanging here Sunday night of John Holmes and Thomas Thurmond.

The outstanding official contrasts were those of Gov. James Rolph, Jr., of California, whose condonation of the lynching of the confessed kidnapers and slayers of Brooke Hart brought forth a deluge of censure and congratulation, and of Gov. Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland, who ordered out the National Guard to arrest suspected members of a lynching party.

The California League of Women Voters, under the name of its president, Mrs. Harriet L. Eliel of Berkeley, sent a telegram to Rolph terming his condonation of the lynching a "plain violation of your oath of office, perversive of law and order and a practical invitation to further such violence."

news" in connection with the lynching of Hart's kidnapers.

However, he added, "The kidnapers got what they deserved."

Bishop Urges Apology.

New York, Nov. 28 (AP).—Bishop William T. Manning called for a public apology from Gov. Rolph of California tonight for the governor's statement approving the San Jose lynching.

Declaring the governor's statement "strikes at the root of our whole system of government," the bishop said:

"The governor's action is a betrayal of his trust as chief executive and an affront to the State of California and to the people of the United States. He should retract his statement at once and publicly apologize for it or he should be removed from office."

Sees National Concern.

Atlanta, Nov. 28 (AP).—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, today said Gov. Rolph's indorsement of the lynching of the California kidnapers was a matter "of national concern."

She telegraphed the governor deploring "your lynching attitude" and said "we are grateful no Southern governor of today has made himself a public defender and protector of lynchers."

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WASHINGTON D.C. HERALD, November 28, 1933.

Heraldings

By George Rothwell Brown

San Jose, California, as the chef would say, serves up a lynching a la Maryland.

* * *

Gov. Bert Ritchie, however, hasn't got the courage of Gov. Jim Rolph's convictions, Bert hailing from a State where a lynching bee is conducted by a mob instead of by a vigilant committee.

* * *

As Thurmond and Holmes looked at each other there as the mob battered down the jail, they hadn't seen such human terror depicted on any face since the day they had murdered young Hart.

* * *

THE last legal hanging in San Jose was back in 1878. Maybe if there had been more there wouldn't have been a lynching.

* * *

We should have more confidence in lynch law if the mob had ever shown any capacity for the patient investigation which always precedes an arrest by the legally constituted authorities. The gallows haunts the mind of the criminal more than the limb of an elm.

* * *

Maryland and California under the same emotional stress only go to prove the truth of that sage observation by Mr. Kipling:

"For the colonel's lady and
Judy O'Grady,
Are sisters under their skin."

NOT RECORDED

WASHINGTON D.C. POST, November 28, 1933.

California's "Lesson."

Gov. Rolph of California has a heavy responsibility in the lynching of Thomas Thurmond and Jack Holmes, confessed kidnapers and murderers of Brooke Hart, son of a San Jose department store proprietor.

In the interval between the finding of the body of young Hart in San Francisco Bay and the minute in which the mob found the courage to batter down the jail door to take the prisoners, the Governor of California commented: "I imagine the finding of the body will create a general state of indignation."

The Associated Press quotes him as having said also: "What? Call out troops to protect these two guys?"

After the mob had run wild, wrecked the jail, hanged and burned the bodies of the two men, the governor said, according to the same authority, "This is the best lesson California has ever given the country. We show the country that the State is not going to tolerate kidnaping."

Those who know the case histories of lynchings know that in more than nine out of ten complicient public officials have given passive, if not active, aid. A mob is essentially cowardly. It requires time to produce its leaders and to work itself into that emotional frenzy in which men throw off the vestiges of civilization and prepare for the blood-letting. That time interval offers the courageous public official his opportunity to mass his forces and demonstrate the integrity of his oath to uphold law.

Twice hours found Gov. Rolph rushing no troops to San Jose or calling out the local militia; they found him doing nothing, apparently, to strengthen the forces of local officials who were fast losing control of the situation. They discovered him, upon the other hand, giving aid and comfort to the mob in the form of intimations that he, as chief executive of the State, would not invoke his powers to put down the defiance.

Without attempting to measure his responsibility for what happened, Gov. Rolph is wholly wrong in stating he knew it [illegible] extra-legal mass murders will [illegible]

California has given the country to learn [illegible] the lesson that has become high in [illegible] concerning the country's [illegible] wealth and [illegible] advantages are [illegible]

California's lesson is that the [illegible] of emotional frenzy are still able to overthrow primitive passions and invoke organs, by which all standards reared by the human race in centuries of civilization, go down [illegible] Gov. Rolph and California [illegible] to give America a lesson that will [illegible] worth while [illegible] the dignity and majesty [illegible] law in the case of a [illegible]

:R 28, 1933

U. S. Interest In Lynched Pair Ceases

Federal Indictments Merely Will Be Allowed to Lapse

The Federal indictments against William H. Thurmond and John Holmes will be ignored now that the Brooke Hart kidnapers have been punished by lynch law.

"We will pay no more attention to them," H. H. McPike, United States Attorney, said yesterday. "They merely will be allowed to lapse."

Thurmond and Holmes, who were charged with using the mails to extort $40,000 from Alex J. Hart, father of the kidnaped and murdered youth, were hotly officially arrested by the Federal authorities. The warrants, issued immediately after the indictments were returned last Wednesday, were merely handed to the San Francisco police shortly before the kidnaper-murderers were whisked to the Santa Clara jail.

STOOD READY TO ACT

"It was never the intention of the Federal authorities," McPike said, "to claim the first right to try the kidnapers. We stood ready at all times to let the State courts have their way. The indictments were returned merely as a safeguard in the event Thurmond and Holmes [illegible] escape punishment on the kidnaping or murder charges or if they should have been able to free themselves from jail on bail."

Hood E. Tolbert, chief of the Bureau of the Department of Justice, which is generally credited with trapping Thurmond and Holmes, said no action would be taken by the Federal Government.

NOT FEDERAL PRISONERS

"They were not yet Federal prisoners," he explained, "but were in the custody of the State officers."

Washington, Tolbert added, had been notified of the lynching merely as a routine report. The Department of Justice headquarters, he asserted, made no mention of the [illegible] arrangement.

7-375-A

WASHINGTON D.C. TIMES, December 7, 1933.

Justice and Law

To cry out against the deed at San Jose is almost as easy as to defend it. No parent of defenseless children could resist the first quick shock of the event, saying, "There and it coming to them," and feeling that for once, perhaps, lynching was justified. That protective and avenging instinct is both savage and human; and the studied belief in justice and the law, in the justice which the law is supposed to bring, is both human and superhuman, failing us again and again, failing us particularly when the law fails to bring justice. But we have to continue to support the law if we want law ever to support us, even when the law breaks down. We have to think that some day mobs may rise, not against kidnapers but against men of strange color or strange beliefs, or will beat to death the falsely accused, or will consider that economic heresy is as dangerous to a community as murder. And we have to consider also that the mob in San Jose was not led by heartbroken or frightened parents of little children. It was led, so far as we can tell, by a boy himself as irresponsible as a child—or as a mob.

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BASD120708 D.C. POST, December 6, 1933.

Hollywood Easier About Kidnapings

So Says Jean Harlow in Commenting on Recent Lynchings.

San Francisco, Dec. 4 (AP)—Jean Harlow, platinum blond screen actress, said here today that members of the Hollywood film colony "feel more easily" since the lynching in San Jose, Calif., of the kidnap-slayers of Brooke L. Hart.

Miss Harlow said she did not approve of lynchings, but added that "the San Jose affair will undoubtedly make those planning kidnapings think twice."

"Because of exaggerated reports of the Sam Hart mishap and sometimes many of us have lived in fear of kidnaping," she said.

The actress is in San Francisco with her husband, Hal C. Rosson, Hollywood camera man, who is interviewing Chinese characters here in connection with a contemplated film.

WASHINGTON D.C. STAR, December 7, 1933.

HART REWARD PAID TWO

Men Who Found Body Given $500 by Kidnap Victim's Father.

SAN JOSE, Calif., December 7 (AP).—The $500 reward offered by Alex J. Hart, San Jose merchant, for recovery of the body of his son, Brooke Hart, kidnap-murder victim, was paid yesterday to H. E. Stephens and L. L. Dalse of Redwood City.

The men found the body in Lower San Francisco Bay while duck hunting. Only a few hours later Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes, who confessed the kidnaping and slaying, were lynched.

Mr. Nathan

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FATHER OFFERS $500 FOR KIDNAP VICTIM'S BODY

San Jose, Cal., Nov. 24.—(AP)—A search of San Francisco bay for the body of Brooke L. Hart was spurred by a $500 reward offer today while his two alleged kidnapers and slayers waited trial in the county jail here.

Alex A. Hart, San Jose merchant and father of the 22-year-old kidnaping victim, offered the reward after more than a week of efforts to recover the body had failed.

Thomas H. Thurwood and John M. Holmes, who state and federal authorities assert confessed abducting Hart and throwing him from the San Mateo bridge in a $40,000 ransom plot, were closely guarded in their cells [illegible]

Complaints charging them with kidnaping under the state law making the penalty death or life imprisonment, were filed by District Attorney [illegible]

Chicago Daily News

11-24-33.

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WASHINGTON D. C. STAR January 4, 1934.

GRAND JURY TO PROBE LYNCHING AT SAN JOSE

January 11 Set as Date for Inquiry Into Deaths of Kidnapers of Brooke L. Hart.

By the Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif., January 4.—A grand jury probe of the recent lynching here of the two kidnap-slayers of Brooke L. Hart was set yesterday for January 11. District Attorney Fred Thomas announced the evidence collected by his office will be presented at that time.

Indictment of persons other than Anthony Cataldi was held unlikely by Thomas, who said Cataldi's alleged participation in the lynching would be discussed thoroughly before the jury.

NOT RECORDED

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WASHINGTON D. C. STAR January 12 1936

HOOVER WILL CONFER ON JUSTICE REFORMS

By the Associated Press.

PALO ALTO, Calif., January 12.—Former President Herbert Hoover expressed interest in proposed criminal justice reforms here Tuesday as he invited S. C. Tompkins, former Santa Clara County Bar Association president, to discuss the matter with him.

Tompkins, who had proposed several reforms in the campaign launched by state bar after the [illegible] of the kidnap-slayer [illegible] Hoover [illegible] on Stanford University's campus for the discussion [illegible].

Mr. Hoover was asked the signers to a recent statement condemning Gov. James Rolph, Jr., of California, for expressing approval of the San Jose lynching [illegible].

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WASHINGTON D. C. HERALD January 12, 1934.

MR. CLOSE
MR. TOLSON
MR. LEACH
MR. [illegible]
MR. LESTER
MR. LOCKE
MR. [illegible]

Lynch Indictment Refused by Jury

SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan. 11 (U. P.)—The Santa Clara county grand jury tonight formally refused to indict anyone in connection with the lynching of two kidnapelayers here. District Attorney Thomas said the gang of Anthony Cataldi, accused as one of the mob that lynched Thomas Thurmond and John Holman, would go th...

Hart Lynch Jury Fails to Indict

N.Y. Herald Tribune 1/18/34

SAN JOSE, Cal., Jan. 18 (AP.)—Because of "inadequate" evidence the Santa Clara County Grand Jury indicted no one for the lynching of two accused kidnap-slayers of Brooke L. Hart.

In a resolution adopted at the conclusion of its investigation the Grand Jury said evidence presented was "totally inadequate to justify indictments against any person."

The resolution said, however, the jury was ready to hear "any definite" evidence which may be presented in the future.

District Attorney Fred Thomas said the jury's failure to indict did not mean he will ask for dismissal of charges against seventeen-year-old Anthony Cataldi, alleged leader of the mob which hanged John M. Holmes and Thomas H. Thurmond on November 26. Cataldi will be given a preliminary hearing tomorrow.

Jim Lynch Case Dropped