

[Jt. Res. No. 99, A.]

[Deposited June 16, 1933.]

No. 90, 1933.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Memorializing congress to grant federal aid to abolish the inhuman treatment and the lynching of negro prisoners.

WHEREAS, The people of the state of Wisconsin have been deeply shocked by, and justifiably incensed over, the inhuman and barbarous treatment accorded negro prisoners in southern prison camps, and the shocking lynching of negroes, which have at various times been perpetrated in some of the southern states, and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of the people and the legislature of this state that such inhuman treatment has a marked and definite tendency to destroy respect of our people for law and order, and

WHEREAS, The treatment accorded the negro prisoners in some southern prison camps, commonly referred to as "chain gangs" is horrifying, and the pain and suffering to which these negro prisoners are subjected is excruciating; and

WHEREAS, The dispensation of justice to and punishment of negroes suspected of crime is not a matter to be dealt with by a group of aroused and angry citizens having no real consideration for constitutional rights and no respect for the adopted and deliberative rules of evidence and procedure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the legislature of the state of Wisconsin earnestly requests and petitions the congress of the United States to enact legislation which will effectively end the lynching or other destruction of negroes accused or suspected of crime in any other way or by any other authority than the due process of law, and by a duly constituted code of justice, and to put a stop to the unchristianlike treatment of negro prisoners by law-enforcing officers in some prison camps; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution, properly attested, be forwarded to the president of the United States, the presiding officers of both houses of congress, and to the Wisconsin senators and representatives herein.