National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
(Affiliated with the National Council of Women of the United States, Inc. and International Council of Women of the World)
1318 Vermont Avenue, Northwest
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Telephone: Columbia 4491

December 6, 1947

The Honorable Clifford P. Case
239 Old House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Congressman Case,

The National Council of Negro Women, after careful study and examination, has resolved to heartily endorse the Wagner-Morse-Case bill (S. 1352 and H. R. 3488) and is urging the chairmen of both committees concerned to hold immediate public hearings with a view to early passage of this legislation.

In endorsing second anti-lynch legislation we have taken many factors into consideration, namely:

1. The fact that more than 5,000 persons are known to have lost their lives at the hands of lynch mobs since 1889.

2. The fact that, since World War II, there has been a great increase in the number of lynchings and attempted lynchings. In many cases, the pattern has been to single out Negro veterans for this type of unlawful violence.

3. The fact that all such practices are contrary to standards of human decency and sound democratic government.

4. The fact that such practices are used not only as a means of sadistic torture, but also as a means of deterring members of minority groups from exercising civil and political rights, i.e., the right to vote, the right to seek opportunities for economic advancement, the right to seek membership in labor unions, etc.

5. And finally, and perhaps most important in these troubled times, the fact that our moral leadership in the world today is challenged by apparent unwillingness to try to work toward perfecting our democratic principles here at home. Substantial evidence of the effect of discrepancies
between our pronouncements and their implementation is contained in a letter recently written by Ernest A. Gross, legal adviser to the Secretary of State, who asserted that "the United States has been embarrassed in the conduct of foreign relations by acts of discrimination taking place in this country."

Yours very truly

Mary McLeod Bethune
Founder-President

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