An Open Letter to Governor Holland

Dear Sir:

May I second with all my might the urgent request of Bishop Wing that you suspend from office Sheriff Luten of Quincy, who allowed a prisoner in his custody to be lynched, if your investigation shows him guilty of negligence in his duties as seems to have been the case.

Today all Americans, whatever our attitudes towards American participation in the war, are appalled at the lawlessness of Hitler's "government." Do we not realize that the Nazi slavery is based squarely on the denial of the human and legal rights of the individual, such as his right to trial by law? We Americans ought to understand this, for we, in common with Englishmen, have an invaluable inheritance from long centuries of the development of principles and practices to safeguard the rights of the individual - every individual.

I am a new citizen of Florida. But both my grandfathers fought in the Confederate army. One of them was a lawyer and country preacher and sometime member of the Tennessee legislature. Once a negro in his community was accused of exactly the crime charged to the man lynched at Quincy. My grandfather was able to prevent a lynching in this case. He understood very well, even in the grim period of the Reconstruction, that only by scrupulous and thorough respect for the human and legal rights of the individual - every individual, black or white - could we hold and strengthen our democratic liberties. I am fully as proud of that incident in my grandfather's career as of his honorable record as a Colonel in Lee's army. Sharing his conviction, I urge you to see that justice is done in this case.

Respectfully,

Alice C. Cramer

Alice C. Cramer
Tampa
Madison, Florida

May 18, 1941

Governor Spessard Holland,
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor Holland:

The writer of this letter voted for you, and is an ardent admirer of your career and all that you stand for.

At the request of Bishop Juhan, I was put on the Board of the Society of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching, representing the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida. Now in the capacity of a Board member, I am writing to urge you to see that there takes place the suspension of the Sheriff of Gadsden County for his having permitted the lynching at Quincy last Tuesday.

I am sure that a large body of women in Florida will add their appreciation to mine if you will comply with this request.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Julia Barnwell
Governor Spessard L. Holland,
Right Honorable Sir:

We most respectfully call your attention to the recent lynching at Quincy, Florida, of a draftee due to the training camp the day after he was lynched. The lynching was done by Hitler paid agents for the purpose of breaking the morale of young men being trained near here for the defense of America, defame your administration and challenge any law the legislature may enact to protect the citizens of Florida.

Let us not forget how Ethiopia, the weakest member of the League of Nations, went down and the entire league took the same course; establishing the analogy that municipal, state and national government is no stronger than the protection given the humblest citizens and as the humblest citizens go so goes the government.

The citizens of Florida are seriously considering refusal to pay taxes without adequate protection of life, liberty and property is guaranteed by the state.

We respectfully petition your honor to make a personal investigation as to the guilt of attempted rape by the lynched victim, his apparent delivery to the mob personally by the sheriff and suspend him from office as a "know nothing sheriff" to protect the honor and dignity of our state and defend your official oath.

C. P. Allen
J. S. Ruby
Mrs. S. Jope
Rev. D. A. Prince
J. C. Lincoln
G. H. McKinnin
R. Z. Graham
K. H. Wing
A. H. Hunter
W. S. Gray
S. A. M. M. Stone
Miss M. E. Rose
William F. Hall
Robert S. McClelland

John Lu
W. D. Allen
Mrs. Robinson
J. B. A. Spinks
W. F. Campbell

E. B. Jaster
D. A. Berman

Miss Hattie Hudson

Washington