L. D. McRAE  
STATE ATTORNEY  
CHIPLEY, FLORIDA

June 23, 1943.

Hon. Spessard L. Holland,  
Tallahassee, Florida.

Dear Governor:

IN RE: The Lynching of Cellos Harrison  
in Jackson County, June 16th, 1943.

On the morning of June 16th, 1943, the Circuit Court was to convene in Marianna for the purpose of disposing of certain motion to be presented by Clyde W. Atkinson, and W. C. Starry, attorneys for Cellos Harrison, and for the further purpose of drawing a jury to serve in the trial of Cellos Harrison in the event the Court would proceed to try the case after the motion were disposed of.

At about 20 minutes after 8 O'clock on the morning of 16th of June, after I had gotten in my car to go to Marianna I learned from my driver that Harrison had been lynched the night before according to Barber Shop news which he had just gathered. I went on to Marianna and found upon my arrival that the men had been lynched the night before at approximately 20 minutes past 12 O'clock on June 16th, 1943, which was about the time he was taken from the County Jail.

A Coroner's Jury was had already been impaneled before my arrival, and the hearing was conducted by County Attorney, Hays Lewis, assisted by myself. The evidence taken at the Inquest was reported by O. C. S. eight the
Court. Reporter for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, and a copy of same is herewith enclosed for your consideration.

A Grand Jury was convened for the 21st of June, and the evidence before the Grand Jury did not materially differ from the evidence before the Coroner.

Upon my suggestion, the Grand Jury recessed subject to return when notified, and to consider any further evidence which we may be able to have for their consideration.

In my letter to Mr. Ralph Davis written in your absence you will note my suggestion for a Special Investigator in this case.

If an investigator should be sent to investigate the case, I shall be glad to give all cooperation possible with the hope that the perpetrators of this crime may be brought to justice.

Yours truly,

L. D. McRAE