'HANDCUFF MURDER' OF JAILED MAN HAD BEEN 'WHITEWASHED'

Courageous Stand in Brutal Alabama Slaying Leads Officials to Press Charges Against White Officer.

FAIRFIELD, Ala., May 23.—"You can't beat human beings... no matter what the color of their skin!"

DIXIE CITY COUNCIL WON'T FIRE OFFICER WHO KILLED

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 23—(AP)—Despite testimony that whipping of Negroes in the Fairfield jail is a common occurrence, the City Council, by one vote, last Wednesday night, refused to oust white officer Thomas H. Nelson (remember the name), who had shot and killed O'Dee Henderson at the police station a week previous, after beating him up. Henderson, handcuffed, was beaten with black-jacks, it is claimed.

In a dramatic and stirring speech—that is what the Rev. Ted Hightower, white, told members of the Fairfield, Ala., Council, now investigating the brutal slaying of O. D. Henderson last week as he blocked efforts to cover up one of the most gruesome murders in the history of the South.

Rev. Hightower's ultimatum was hurled with bitter defiance and contempt at the nine members of the council and struck the packed room like a bombshell.

"I don't think any feelings need to be spared," Rev. Hightower said. "The public is terribly worried about it. Now is the time to roll up your sleeves and do a real cleaning. We're looking for action, not pussy-footing. Let politics be cut out and let the case be tried on its merit."

"You can't beat human beings—no matter what the color of their skin is!"

A young and progressive minister, Rev. Hightower has been waging a one-man campaign in Alabama to bring about the freedom and fair play known throughout the South for his fearlessness and open mind. Rev. Hightower's dogmatic demand for an "open hearing" blocked all efforts to squelch the case, which has attracted the attention of the entire nation.

Rev. Hightower made his dramatic and humanitarian plea after the council had voted to retain officers W. D. Cook and W. T. Glenn, who were at the police station at the time of the slaying and participated in the beatings given Henderson by M. M. Haguood and officer Tom Nelson, the latter being under a 30 day suspension and $1,500 bond for shooting Henderson three times, after Haguood had given him an unmerciful thrashing.

It is admitted now that had not the courageous clergyman taken the humanitarian stand he did, the circumstances under which Henderson was killed would have never been brought to light.

It had already been suggested in council that the investigation be a closed one and that the results be withheld until a later date. It is understood that a movement was underway to cloak the entire case and release the accused. However, Rev. Hightower's demands blocked the movement and forced officials handling the investigation to press all charges.