MOBILE, Ala.—As the result of a dispute with a white mechanic over President Truman’s proposed civil rights program, Rayfield Davis, 53, was beaten to death Tuesday. His assailant, Horace M. Miller, 20, white, has been charged with the man’s death.

Miller surrendered to police with his attorney following the affair and signed a statement in which he said he beat Davis with his fists and kicked him in the dispute. Dr. H. S. J. Walker, county coroner, returned the murder verdict.

The white mechanic’s statement, according to Detective Capt. Tally Rollins, said that Miller told him, “President Truman is our good friend and he will give us our equal rights.” He added that “he (Davis) was at that time referring to the civil rights program being published by our President.”

Both men were employed at the Brookley Air Force base.