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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF RECORDS

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BY ORDER OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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See also Nos.

158260-63

file

NF:jec

E. J. R.

OCTOBER 28, 1941

158260-63

RECORD

WALTER WHITE
SECRETARY, NAACP
69 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

WILL ARRANGE APPOINTMENT ON MONDAY PLEASE CONTACT OFFICE
ON YOUR ARRIVAL HERE

NATHAN FRANKE
SECRETARY

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158260-63

NOV 5 1941

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF RECORDS
TELETYPE OFFICE

WB:FGF:ild

September 27, 1941

158260-63

Mrs. J. L. Brock, Chairman
Texas Commission on Interracial Cooperation
Bryan, Texas

Dear Mrs. Brock:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 18, 1941, concerning the murder of Bob White in a court room in Conroe, Texas, during June of 1941.

You are advised that the Department has considered this matter and has determined that on the facts presented the matter is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the State of Texas. For this reason, the Department cannot intervene.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

FILED
JW
SEP 29 1941

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SEP 27 1941
DIVISION OF RECORDS

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COMMISSION ON INTERRACIAL
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CRIMINAL DIVISION
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September 18, 1941 **SEP 23 11 39 AM '41**

OFFICE OF THE
RECEIVED
SEP 22 1941
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Francis S. Biddle, Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Biddle:

The Board of Directors of the Texas Commission on Interracial Cooperation wishes to call your attention to the killing of Bob White, Negro, by W. S. Cochran in the courtroom at Conroe, Texas, June, 1941. From verbal and newspaper accounts of the shooting, it appears that there was insufficient protection of the prisoner by officers of the law, and in the interest of the right of all prisoners to a fair trial, regardless of color, the Board feels that an investigation should be made and the appropriate action taken, if guilt is determined.

We have written to the Attorney General of Texas, but we feel the matter is so important it should not rest in that office alone.

With our appreciation, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. L. Brock
Mrs. J. L. Brock

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ON SEP 29 1941

158260-63
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SEP 22 1941 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM. DIV. - ROTNEM

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WB:FGF:wo

158260-63

June 25, 1941

Mr. Walter White
Secretary, National Association for
the Advancement of Colored People
69 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. White:

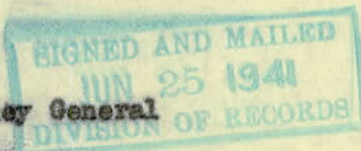
This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram of June 11, 1941, which is as follows:

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People requests the Department of Justice to institute immediately an investigation of the shooting June 10 of Bob White by S. W. Cochran in District Courtroom at Conroe, Texas. This is case of Negro whose conviction was reversed twice, once by Texas Court of Appeals and once by United States Supreme Court. We submit there is basis for investigation by Department of Justice under Section 47, Subsection 2 and Section 48 of Chapter Three of Title Eight of United States Code Annotated, covering civil rights."

This matter has been given careful consideration, and as it appears to involve no violation of any Federal criminal statute, the jurisdiction of the Department cannot be invoked. Section 47 (2) and Section 48, Chapter 3, Title 8, United States Code, which you suggest might be the basis for Federal intervention in this matter, confer a right of action for violations of civil rights upon the individuals whose rights have been violated, and not upon the Federal Government.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General



WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

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NOTED
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TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF RECORDS
TELEGRAPH OFFICE

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-1438

1941 JUN 11 PM 3:42

WU B120 TWS PAID 3=NEWYORK NY JUN 11 252P
HON ROBERT H JACKSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES=
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC=

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED
PEOPLE REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO INSTITUTE
IMMEDIATELY AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SHOOTING JUNE 10 OF
BOB WHITE BY W S COCHRAN IN DISTRICT COURTROOM AT CONROE,
TEXAS. THIS IS CASE OF NEGRO WHOSE CONVICTION WAS REVERSED
TWICE, ONCE BY TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS AND ONCE BY
UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. WE SUBMIT THERE IS BASIS FOR
INVESTIGATION BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER SECTION 4,
SUBSECTION 2 AND SECTION 48 OF CHAPTER THREE OF TITLE EIGHT
OF UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED, COVERING CIVIL RIGHTS=

WALTER WHITE SECRETARY 69 FIFTH AVE.

47 2 48 69

CRIMINAL DIVISION
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JUN 11 4 16 PM '41
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BY
On JUN 26 1941

158260-63
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 11 1941
DIVISION
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RECORD