

Governor Ritchie's statement in
Baltimore Jan.,
Sunday morning, Dec. 6th 1931.

The crime of this negro Williams was a shocking thing, but he should have paid the penalty for it through the established legal machinery. The action of the mob in lynching him must bring the blush of shame to every law abiding Marylander, whether on or off the Eastern Shore.

The duty of ascertaining the perpetrators and punishing them rests on the authorities of Worcester County,- the State's Attorney, the Grand Jury and the Circuit Court. State's Attorney Bailey is quoted this afternoon as saying that he plans "to prosecute the case vigorously, stopping not at the leaders, but carrying it to every other person who took part, and who can be identified".

I have confidence in Mr. Bailey and believe that he will do exactly what he says, but in the face of this outrage, which is of State wide importance, it is my duty to give him all the assistance within my power.

Under the authority conferred on me by the Constitution, I have directed the Attorney General to cooperate with the State's Attorney of Worcester County in the vigorous prosecution of the perpetrators of this crime. The Attorney General will have behind him every agency which the State can supply for his assistance.

There remains the question of the effect of this lynching upon the case of Othman Jones.

It is imperative that Othman Jones be tried, wherever he is to be tried, at the earliest possible moment. Jones' attorney has appealed to the Court of Appeals from the order of the lower court removing his case to Dorchester County. I am advised that the Circuit Court will not try the case until this appeal has been