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Chairs for councilmen in the new City hall are found to be "uncomfortable." Now the council will find out how the taxpayers feel most of the time.

An Unredeemed Pledge

MARYLAND'S lynching of Friday night is another reminder of the delay and procrastination shown by the administration in attacking this horrible national problem.

Any further delay is inexcusable. Congress, in the light of what has happened in the enlightened state of Maryland, and in the light of what happened in the equally enlightened State of Indiana a year ago, has had a demonstration of the fact that mob murder is something more than an isolated sectional phenomenon.

The National Equal Rights League has called upon President Hoover for aid in a fight to be made against lynching in the coming session.

Both the Republican party and the President have spoken on this issue. The party pledged itself to an anti-lynching law "to exterminate this hideous crime." President Hoover has said: "Every decent citizen must condemn the lynching evil as an undermining of the very essence of both justice and democracy." Yet neither acts. The Dyer bill imposing federal penalties upon counties which wink at lynchings, has got nowhere under three Republican administrations.

Last year there were 21 lynchings as compared with 225 in 1892. The truth about the cowardly injustice of these lawless episodes also comes out. A group of Southern investigators recently found

that less than one-fourth of all lynching victims in the past 40 years were even accused of assaults upon white women, the usual mob alibi. They found that of last year's lynching toll two were innocent, 11 were "possibly" so.

The problem is acute. There were twice as many lynchings last year as in 1929.

President Hoover has said: "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

One test of Republican issues will be on this issue. And what about the Democrats?