

WE PROTEST

It is unfortunate that in the campaign of vindictive denunciation of the people of the Eastern Shore, which has recently been carried on by two of the Baltimore newspapers, the whole principal of justice seems to have been overlooked.

That the murderer of a whole family, consisting of a husband and wife and two young daughters, who confessed his guilt to a number of persons giving them his reasons for committing the crime, should be brought to justice seemed never to have been important.

The action of a companion of the attorney for the accused in attempting to tamper with a state witness to get this witness to change her testimony has not been condemned either by the Baltimore papers or by the state authorities but, apparently seems to be accepted as right and proper.

This paper has not and does not approve of lynchings, mob law, nor violence nor does it approve of obstructive tactics which aim to defeat the ends of justice.

But we do protest against the press using its influence to prevent criminals being brought promptly to trial.

We protest against the press spreading propaganda for organizations that are known to be opposed to law and order and which seek to bring about trouble between the different races.

We protest against efforts to undermine the confidence of the people of Maryland against its Judiciary without regard to section.

We protest against allowing political considerations, friendships or alliances to enter into the matter of bringing criminals to trial no matter where the crimes may be committed.

We protest against state officials using their positions and the resources of the state for any other purposes than that of up-holding and enforcing the law.

Here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland we know what Baltimore thinks of us. We know what it thinks of Eastern Shoremen who live in Baltimore. The newspaper is the spokesman for the community in which it is published and the newspapers there have very frankly told us what their opinion of us is and to be certain that we do not misunderstand them Dr. Mencken's pen was brought into action, to tell us in language so insulting that there might be no doubt of any kind about it. So be it.

Several days ago we suggested to the Sunpapers that since they had published a portion of the Governor's correspondence to make good the impression they were conveying that the Court had asked for troops and state police, they publish his letter of November 10th to State's Attorney McAllister and his letter of the 11th to Judge Pattison. They have not done this and in order that the public may know that the suggestion of troops and police came from Governor Ritchie and not from the Court or the State's Attorney, we are publishing them. They speak for themselves:

Executive Department
Annapolis, Maryland,
November 10, 1931

Hon. James A. McAllister,
Cambridge, Maryland.

Dear Mr. McAllister:

I do not know just when Orphan Jones will be tried. I have a number of engagements which will take me out of the State during the next two months, and it is possible that I may be away when the case comes up. Under these circumstances, I am authorizing Adjutant General Milton A. Reckord to use the National