

He Allots The Blame For The Lynching

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING SUN—Sir:

I cannot but express my horror at the terrible lynching that has blackened the name of our State. We can well hang our heads in shame that in this twentieth century such a thing could happen in a civilized community.

But let us think soberly and go deeper than that first shudder of disgust. You and I helped drag that Negro out of the hospital, and you and I helped place the rope. You did it and I did because we are a part of public opinion—a very slack public opinion, but a public opinion that should have been so strong that no officer in the United States would have dared to have so forgotten his duty; that no authorities of a hospital would submit to the sacrilege committed except over their dead bodies; that no Governor of a State would wait to “investigate” before making a “statement.”

You and I are guilty of a great wrong—greater than the few men who have undisciplined minds, beastly desires and shriveled souls. There are men who would lynch in every community but for public opinion.

Are you and I going to keep silent, and because of our indifference allow another disgraceful procedure to occur? I am afraid no Governor of a State that is not strong enough to prevent a barbaric lynching is Presidential material, at least in the eyes of his sister States. Until you and I do more than shudder we can expect mob violence to be our law. ANDREW SIMON.

Baltimore, Dec. 5.