

MISSISSIPPI PASSES OWN ANTI-LYNCHING BILL: ACTION DEEMED FILIBUSTER ...

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ACTION DEEMED FILIBUSTER AID TO U. S. SOLONS

No Penalty Provided For Prisoners "Taken"

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 16 (AP). —With an eye on the lengthy senate filibuster in Washington, the Mississippi House of Representatives late Thursday passed its own "anti-lynching" bill by 86 to 9 after a brief debate, decreeing the offense "murder" and making those found guilty liable to hanging.

Loudest objection to the measure came from Nathan G. Allen, whose county ironically enough, was named for Abraham Lincoln. Allen defended lynching by saying:

"If we pass this bill, it will be violated. Why beat around the bush? Mob violence is sometimes justified."

To Aid Filibuster.

The legislation was sponsored by Hilton Walts of Washington county, and was intended to help the Southern filibuster in Congress by showing the North that Dixie was capable of looking after its own problems without Federal intervention. The State Assembly previously has gone on record as being opposed to the Wagner-Van Nuys bill.

Most of the debate on the measure, brought up by suspension of rules, centered about whether it would aid Southern senators in their filibuster. Rep. Charles Bolen contended the Mississippi bill would "make proponents of the Federal measure more stubborn in their efforts to break the filibuster," and Rep. Carl A. Chadwick asserted the proposal would "be an admission that we need regulation."

The act declares that the lynching of any person within the state by a

mob shall be deemed murder, and that every person in a mob participating in a lynching shall be subject to prosecution for murder.

Provides Penalties.

Under its provisions any person in a mob committing an assault or battery would be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction would be sentenced to the penitentiary for no less than one year nor more than 10.

The measure would require the district attorney of an area in which a lynching occurs to endeavor "promptly and diligently" to ascertain identity of persons comprising the mob and immediately prosecute them. It also provides that the attorney general may assist the district attorney and that the governor shall have full authority to spend money out of his contingent fund in an effort to apprehend and prosecute mob members.

However, there is no penalty for failure of officials to take such action following a lynching, nor are sheriffs and law enforcing agencies made liable to penalties if their prisoners are "taken" from them by mobs.