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Office of the Secretary
70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK,
Telephone, Chelsea 7481

16th May, 1916.

Dear Miss Freeman:

The evening papers last night all carried the brief Associated Press story of the Waco Lynching on the front page. Such a spectacle in the public square of a town of over 25,000 inhabitants, a young boy condemned to death and then taken from the court-room, affords one of the most spectacular grounds of attack on the whole institution of lynching ever presented.

Mr. Villard of the Evening Post, our treasurer, asked me when I came back from Georgia to get the inside story of the next horrible lynching so that he can write it up and spread it broadcast through the Southern press over his own name. All the best Southern sentiment is as squarely against this thing as is the North.

The facts in this instance should be particularly easy to ascertain: if 15,000 citizens witnessed the burning, the town will be talking of nothing else for some time. The facts of the boy's crime were previously brought out in

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court; the scene of the crime is only seven miles from Waco. Many photos were probably taken by the mob that looked on.

We expect next week to have some money with which to attack this and similar cases legally, employing the most distinguished legal talent in an effort to bring somebody to book. A conference Monday in the office of Moorfield Storey, of Boston, our national president, and former president of the American Bar Association, will decide whether or not we launch a national campaign against lynching.

Will you not get the facts for us? Your suffrage work probably will give you an excuse for being in Waco; in any case your presence would not be noticed there as it would in a country village. You will probably be able very soon to locate liberals or Northerners there with whom you can talk freely. W.T. Webb, state secretary of the Socialist Party, Cisco, Texas, can probably be trusted to put you in touch with trusty radicals. There must be some priest or minister who will help you get at the facts.

We want all of them: the crime in detail, who the boy was and who his victim, the Judge and jury that tried the case, the court record, and the ghastly story of the burning. If you can get anything in the way of legal evidence against any of the mob, our lawyers will be that much ahead. Photos of the places mentioned, the town, the courthouse, the square, the suspension bridge, the scene of the murder, and any of the actors will make the thing vivid for news

purposes.

If you should find that evidence is likely to be forthcoming by modestly subsidizing some young Northern lawyer, perhaps, a small retainer will be willingly covered. Do not put us in the position of buying evidence, but it would be entirely justifiable to meet the expenses of anyone there who effectively cooperated with us.

As I wired you this afternoon, we will be most happy to give you fifty dollars a week and expenses for such time as you find necessary to unearth this information. I am sending herewith cashier's check for \$100. on account, against which you will render an itemized time and expense account for our records.

I wish exceedingly that I could join you, but I know that ^{you} will get the goods at much less expense than a trip from New York would entail.

I am enclosing the account of my findings in Georgia which was published in the Crisis.

If you need further funds, or assistance, a wire will bring them immediately. Only of course word your messages so as to avoid suspicion; Western Union leaks in the South.

With most cordial regards,

Roy Nash
Secretary.

Arthur Spingarn of our legal committee has just phoned me that Senator Morris Sheppard is a personal friend of Chas. Studin, one of our directors. Will try to open up political connections there to-morrow.