

Largest Negro Weekly
Newspaper in the World

THE PITTSBURGH
Courier
AMERICA'S BEST WEEKLY

Member of the Audit
Bureau of Circulations

Published by The Pittsburgh Courier Publishing Company, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 1828

MUSEUM 3-2000

PITTSBURGH 30, PA.

September 29, 1955

Mr. E. Frederick Morrow
The White House
Washington, D. C.



Dear Fred:

I know this is out of your department, but because of the urgency of the matter and the need for its being considered at the highest level possible, I am compelled to write you directly.

Negroes across the country are much concerned about the recent Till "trial" murder case in Sumner, Mississippi. This is reflected through literally hundreds of letters which have come to us here at the Courier; a sharp rise in our circulation as a result of the stories we have published in connection with this; and the thousands of Negroes who turned out for mass meetings in New York, Detroit and Chicago verify the height of this interest.

My concern is that from what I have been able to ascertain, not one denunciatory statement has been issued by anyone high in the Federal Government. We know, of course, that there is no violation of the Federal Kidnapping Law, and it is apparent that there is little that the Justice Department can do, but it would be of untold political advantage, insofar as the Negro vote is concerned, if someone at the level of Mr. Brownell or Sherman Adams, or even the Vice President, made clear that the Federal Government looked with dismay on this incident.

I need not point out to you that this has made us look like a veritable "jackass" in the eyes of the rest of the world, and we must use such public relations tools as are available to make sure that the pendulum of world opinion and of the opinion of many liberal and fair-thinking people in America does not swing back against the Federal Government in Washington because it remains silent on this score.

We have even learned that a Negro by the name of Leroy Collins has admitted that he washed blood out of the 1955 Chevrolet pick-up truck that was supposed to have hauled Till away from the Milam plantation to the river, and that this Negro was deliberately locked up in a Charleston, Mississippi jail until the prosecutor's testimony had been completed. This revelation is deserving of consideration by Federal authorities who might inquire into this version of "Mississippi justice."

more

MR. Frederick Morrow

2

September 29, 1955

The sooner this statement can be prepared and released the sooner will the stock of our administration rise in the eyes of the American Negro and of everyone else who still is looking over our shoulder to see if we are the fair democracy we profess being "with liberty and justice for all."

I will be in Washington on Monday and will give you a ring, but if such a statement as I herein request can be secured from a voice high in Government, I would certainly appreciate having it forwarded here to the Courier just as soon as possible.

By the way, I received a very pleasant note from Sherman Adams today acknowledging my letter to him about your speech in Philadelphia.



Sincerely,

"B.C."

W. Beverly Carter
Publisher