

made for that purpose. And the Bureau now has an extensive program of civil rights training not only for its own agents but also for local law enforcement officers.

4. The Antilynching Proposals.

Title IV of the bill in Subcommittee print as well as S. 429 and S. 505 would set up a Federal Antilynching Act. We in the Department of Justice are, of course, not opposed to legislation which would bring a complete end to anything so repugnant to all our principles of law and justice as lynchings.

The bill proposed, however, goes to the extent of making it a federal crime whenever "two or more persons shall knowingly in concert . . . commit or attempt to commit violence upon any person or persons or on his or their property because of his or their race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, language, religion, or for any other reason which denies due process of law." Serious constitutional objections have been raised by responsible authorities to such an extension of federal power over private citizens.

Furthermore, doubts have been expressed as to the wisdom of such an extension of federal jurisdiction apart from constitutionality. All of us here are shocked, I am sure, at cases such as that of Emmet Louis Till, where it was charged that two private individuals seized a Negro teenage boy and killed him because he had "wolf-whistled" the wife of one of them. All of us here are also shocked by the situation in Montgomery, Alabama, where private citizens have been shooting at Negro riders on buses and planting bombs in the houses of Negro citizens.

But consider for a moment the consequences of extending federal jurisdiction under language such as that contained in this bill. There must be literally thousands of cases each year (North and South) involving violence to person or property in which the claim could be made that two or more persons conspired to

