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October 28, 1955

Honorable Maxwell Raab
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Max:

First, allow me to congratulate you upon the very forthright position you took during a recent meeting in Chicago. The information was forwarded to me and, of course, I took pride in realizing that you were still "running true to form."

There is one incident, however, which recently occurred in the country which I think should be given some official recognition by our administration. The incident to which I refer is the infamous Till trial held in Sumner, Mississippi about a month ago. I am sure that you know the details.

While I realize that there is nothing the Government can do officially, it is my sincere belief that some official statement should be made either by Vice President Nixon, Mr. Sherman Adams, Atty. General Herbert Brownell or some official member of the President's cabinet. If we can get no more than a declaration from Mr. Brownell's office that the Justice deplores the Till incident as un-American and vicious and a betrayal of American principles before the world, then we could shake a little story from this.

I understand from reliable sources that FBI agents are busy in Mississippi. I also realize that there has been no violation under the Lindberg Kidnapping Act which would allow the federal government to move in.

I question, however, whether or not something might not be done in this matter as a violation of the boy's civil rights. Whatever the background, I still feel that an official statement by a member of the President's official family would give solace to millions of loyal American citizens.

The case was widely publicized; many fine editorials have been written. I realize that the case is unusual. But I also know that what happened in Mississippi is certainly not in keeping with President Eisenhower's ideals nor his thinking. Negroes are beginning to believe in the President's plan and a forthright statement would certainly do much to strengthen their belief in our administration.

You can write me freely on this and know that whatever you want kept off the record will be done. I suggest, however, that you take this letter up with the key members who think as you do and let me know if an official statement can be made.

Sincerely,

Wm. G. Nunn

William G. Nunn
Managing Editor

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