

9 Negroes Killed In Legal Lynch Orgy By Southern Rulers

5 in Ala. Mass Execution Go To Death Singing "Let My People Go"

By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—The Southern white ruling class carried through a bloody orgy of mass legal murders against the Negro masses last Friday morning, with five executions in Alabama, three in Texas and one for good measure in Arkansas.

At Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Alabama, where for months the nine Scottsboro boys had been subjected to the most hideous torture, five of nine Negroes selected by the Alabama Supreme Court for a new St. Bartholomew massacre, were swiftly electrocuted. The first entered the death cell at 12:05, and the fifth victim 33 minutes later. Inside of 35 minutes, five horribly tortured, charred bodies were flung into the face of the Negro masses as a bloody warning "to stay in their place," to meekly submit to growing hunger, mass misery, brazen discrimination and the war plans of the "New Deal." The mass execution was deliberately organized as a substitute for the Scottsboro boys, saved so far by the world-wide protest movement of white and Negro toilers.

I. L. D. Exposed Frame-Up

Bennie Foster, of Selma, Ala., whose frame-up and torture were exposed by the International Labor Defense in complete detail, was the first of the legal lynch victims to die. Foster faced his murderers bravely, his last words a reiteration of his

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consistent denial of the framed-up murder charge:

"I'm just an innocent man going to glory, that's all."

The executions were rushed through in swift sequence, with John Thompson next, Luther Williams third, Ernest Waller fourth and Solomon Roper fifth in the bloody holocaust.

One of the nine victims selected for this blood-curdling demonstration against the Negro people died in prison as a result of ill-treatment. Of the two others, mass pressure mobilized by the I. L. D. forced Governor B. M. Miller to commute the sentence of Leo Fountain to life imprisonment, and to grant a "clemency hearing" for Miss Feeney Aubrey, the ninth.