

SEN. WAGNER IN NEW PLEA FOR ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Presents Open Letter to Senate From Writers League

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—Senator Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, of New York, presented to the senate last Saturday an open letter addressed to the congress of the United States by the Writers League Against Lynching, urging immediate passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The letter is as follows:
"The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill is now before you for consideration in the senate, and the Ford bill, which is identical, is before the house of representatives.

"We, the undersigned writers, publishers and editors of the United States, take this means of urging immediate passage of this legislation, which has been declared constitutional by Charles H. Tuttle, former United States attorney for the southern district of New York, and other eminent lawyers, whose opinions are a part of the official record.

"For too long has America been held up to shame and ridicule throughout the world because of the unrestrained activities of lawless mobs which have lynched and even burned human beings at the stake. Among the victims have been not only men, but women, and even children. Five thousand and fifty-three lynchings have disgraced our country since 1682; 1,435 of these victims have been white and 94 of them have been women.

State Fails to Act

"The argument that the majority of lynchings are in punishment for rape has long since been exploded by impartial examination of the facts, which reveals that less than one-sixth of these victims have even been accused of sex offenses. No part of our country has been immune to this crime and the evil is spreading with alarming rapidity. State governments have clearly and unmistakably manifested their unwillingness or their inability to prevent lynchings or punish lynchings. A solemn obligation, therefore, rests upon the federal

government speedily to enact this legislation into law."

The letter was signed by Louis Adamic, Gertrude Atherton, Faith Baldwin, Mary R. Beard, Robert Benchley, Stephen Vincent Benet, Bruce Blyden, Herschel Brickell, Van Wyck Brooks, Struthers Burt, Erskine Caldwell, Henry S. Canby, Marc Connelly, Countee Cullen, Babette Deutsch, J. H. Dillard, Edward Denohoe, Theodore Dreiser, Abraham Epstein, Clifton Fadiman, Edna Ferber, Arthur Davidson Ficke, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, E. Franklin Frazier, C. Harley Grattan, Harold K. Guinzburg, Louis M. Hacker, Harry Hansen, Jessie Fauset Harris, Arthur Garfield Hays, Robert Herrick, Sheila Hibben, B. W. Huebsch, Inez Haynes Irwin, Georgia Douglas Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Freda Kirchwey, Alfred A. Knopf, Joseph Wood Krutch, Suzanne La Follette, William Ellery Leonard, Newman Levy, Sinclair Lewis, Alain Locke, Robert Morss Lovett, Lenore G. Marshall, Annie Nathan Meyer, George Millburn, Ruth Comfort Mitchell, Christopher Morley, Lewis Mumford, George Jean Nathan, Robert Nathan, W. W. Norton, Mary White Ovington, Greta Palmer, William Pickens, Ruth Pickering, A. S. Platt, Loring Pruette, Elmer Rice, Lola Ridge, Charles Edward Russell, George S. Schuyler, Evelyn Scott, Upton Sinclair, George Soule, J. E. Spingarn, Benjamin Stolberg, Phil Strong, Ruth Doren, Carl Van Vechten, Oswald Garrison Villard, Edward Wasserman, Walter White, Roy Wilkins, Helen Woodward and W. E. Woodward.