

PETITION F.D.R. TO END TENN. POLICE TERROR

Send Letter To President After Protest Confab In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Prominent southern Negroes joined with the Southern Negro Youth congress this week in a letter to President Roosevelt asking the Federal government to take immediate steps to safeguard the lives, liberties, and property of Negro people in Memphis.

Among those who signed the statement to the President included William J. Faulkner, university minister, Fisk university, Nashville, Tenn.; David D. Jones, president of Bennett college, Greensboro, N. C.; Dr. Alain Locke of the department of philosophy, Howard university; Carleton L. Lee, Southern Hi-Y secretary, Atlanta, Ga.; Rev. De Witt S. Dykes, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Dr. J. F. Watson, San Antonio, Tex.; John M. Gandy, president Virginia State college; Hartford Knight, district representative, UMWA, Birmingham, Ala.; Carter W. Wesley, Informer Publishing company, Houston, Texas and Rev. William P. Mitchell of Tulsa, Okla.

The statement to the President on the suspension of civil liberties in Memphis said in part:

"Since the November elections there has been in Memphis an unrelenting wave of intimidation and acts of terror against the Negro citizens of this city on the part of the police force, inspired by Commissioner of Police, Joseph P. Boyle by Mayor Chandler, and by Democratic national committeeman and political 'boss' of Shelby county, Edward Crump.

"This attack upon the Negro citizens of Memphis, who constitute something more than a third of the population of the city, has come as a political reprisal against a section of the Negro electorate who refused to abide by the dictates of the Crump machine and voted for candidates of their choice."