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LAW AND ORDER BETRAYED

(AN EDITORIAL)

The city of Little Rock suffered last night the shame of being delivered over to anarchy. This community saw law and order and peace and security overthrown. The impotence of city and county peace officers left mob rule free to work its will.

It was a frightful thing that a negro was lynched in the county, even though his cowardly crime came at an hour when public feeling was inflamed by a crime still more heinous. But as if that was not enough our peace officers, city and county, let a riddled corpse be brought to town for a Saturnalia of savagery. In millions of homes throughout America, when families gather for the morning meal today, the name of Little Rock will be read with expressions of horror; and mental pictures will be formed of this city and its people which will be unjust to its thousands of law-abiding men and women but unfortunately indelible with those who know us only through a lynching that was followed by a burning in a public street.

Little Rock and Pulaski county must demand an accounting of the officers who have failed us. Little Rock and Pulaski county must have in places of authority men who are fearless and determined, men who can measure up to the most serious of emergencies and men who can always defend our community against excess and lawlessness and vindicate its devotion to peace and order.