

LYNCHING OF LEO FRANK DENOUNCED BY DANIELS

Washington, August 17.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels tonight issued a formal statement denouncing the lynching of Leo M. Frank as the worst blot on the name of Georgia and declaring it would be more sincerely condemned in the south than in any other part of the republic. The statement follows:

"I am shocked beyond expression at the lawlessness of the Georgia mob. It is the worst blot upon the name of the state. Every good citizen must deplore it. It will be denounced more sincerely in the south than in any other part of the republic. The great bulk of southern people know that such instances, perpetrated by the few and indorsed by a small minority, work injury to their section.

"There is never any excuse anywhere for lynch law. In this case, there were thousands of the best men in Georgia who believed he was guilty. If guilty, he ought to have paid the penalty of the heinous crime, the worst that man can commit. The governor, after long deliberation, decided to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. Those who thought the governor should have let the sentence stand cannot even advance the poor plea that Frank had escaped punishment. The governor's action changed the sentence from death to imprisonment for life. The punishment of life imprisonment is the most serious sentence that can be imposed short of execution. If guilty, Frank would be daily punished for his crime, for life imprisonment is a living death.

"No man is safe when a mob takes the law in its own hands. I have no doubt the governor of Georgia will employ every possible agency to discover the mob-murderers and bring them to trial and punishment. The honor and fair name of Georgia demand this. The case has become one of nation-wide interest, and the eyes of all the civilized world, standing aghast at the crime of the mob, will look to Georgia to punish the criminals, who, under the cover of night, have committed a crime that cries aloud for severest punishment."