

CLEMENCY HEARING FOR FRANK MAY 31

Special Date Named a Week
Ahead of Prison Board's
Regular June Meeting.

75,000 LETTERS ASK MERCY

Borah, Knox, Herrick, Newlands,
Reed, Walsh, and Governors of
States All Urge Commutation.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 17.—May 31 was designated as the date for a special hearing of Leo M. Frank's appeal before the State Prison Commission, following an informal conference this afternoon between R. R. Davison, Chairman of the Commission, and Harry Alexander of counsel to Frank. It was the desire of Frank's attorneys that a special hearing be arranged for some time before the regular June session of the commission, because otherwise the immense labor involved in examining the bulky record of the case would leave insufficient time for consideration, the date of execution being June 22. The date of the special hearing is a week before the session at which the hearing would have come in the regular course. This action means that Governor Slaton almost certainly will be called upon to make the final decision.

Today's early mail brought to Governor Slaton's office more than 3,000 letters seeking clemency for Frank, among them pleas from United States Senators, Governors, members of Congress, and other prominent citizens.

Senator W. E. Borah of Idaho was one of the petitioners in Frank's behalf, giving his opinion that the death sentence should be commuted. Philander C. Knox, ex-Senator and Secretary of State, wrote from Pittsburgh, urging commutation. Myron T. Herrick of Ohio, ex-Governor of Ohio, and ex-Ambassador to France, also expressed the opinion that the Governor should save Frank from the death penalty.

Letters or telegrams in the same vein have come from Senator Reed of Missouri, Senator Thomas of Colorado, Senator Newlands of Nevada, Frank Walsh, Chairman of the United States Industrial Relations Commission; Fred A. Delano, members of the Federal Reserve Board, and Mayor Rolph of San Francisco.

Letters have been received from Governor Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania, Governor Hall of Louisiana, Governor Hatfield of West Virginia, Governor Ferris of Michigan, and other State executives. It has been the custom for the Governor of one State to remain silent concerning a problem with which another Governor has to deal, particularly in the matter of extending clemency. The letters that have come to Governor Slaton from other State executives are perhaps the first instances of such petitions in the United States; certainly this is the first case in which the petitions have been so general.

All told, more than 75,000 letters and telegrams from all parts of the United States have been received, urging that Frank be saved from death. Of all the correspondence in connection with the case, fewer than twenty letters have suggested that the death sentence be executed.

The letters have been kept in a crate three feet deep and four feet long. This has long been filled to overflowing, and a little mountain of letters has accumulated above its level, so that another box as large will be necessary to hold the petitions. Necessarily, most of the appeals must remain unanswered by the Governor.