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The Clarion-Ledger AND JACKSON DAILY NEWS

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SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1959

American Womanhood Needs Tough U.S. Anti-Rape Law

The discussion of rape is not a fit subject for a Sunday editorial, but since the entire world is goggle-eyed about lynching and raping, please forgive a departure of policy in turning to the matter on this Sabbath Day.

There is a loud scream going up in Washington to pass a Federal Anti-Lynching Bill. It is argued with deafening illogic that this law is needed because a Negro rapist was kidnaped in Poplarville, marking the first possible lynching case in the United States in several years. The FBI has already swarmed to the case.

The New York Times, leaning on reports from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, reports that for a period of 65 years, ending in 1947, at least one lynching took place each year in the United States. From 1948 - 1958 only four lynchings were reported.

Tuskegee Institute, which doesn't concern itself with such "trivial" things as interracial rape - murder, reports that since 1900 there have been 1,990 lynchings.

It is an elementary observation, then, that lynchings are on the wane and were almost gone until Federal courts began the practice of freeing any rapist who owns a black face for the sake of appeasing a political minority group.

It is difficult to understand why Congress is so emotionally disturbed over an Anti-Lynching Bill when, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation crime reports found in the World Almanac, there were 21,080 women raped in the United States during 1957; there were 21,300 in 1956; 19,100 in 1955. The rape rate is soaring and Negroes commit the vast majority of them.

Returning to the 1957 year and granting the latest census figures show the U.S. population to be 150,697,361, rapid arithmetic reveals that during that year there were 439 rapes per state or 1.2 rapes per state, per day or a total of 57 rapes across the nation each passing day of 1957.

Why is it the kidnaping of one Negro savage is more important to the world than the sacred personal rights of 21,080 American women?

While no official tabulation is kept on rapes in Mississippi, law enforcement authorities estimate that there were only three or four rapes in this state during 1957.

Thus, Mississippi averaged one rape per 547,228 population that year. The national average was 1 rape per 7,148 population, including men, children and women.

According to the Washington Evening Star, dated July 12, 1958, there were 160 rapes committed in the nation's capital in 1957.

In the center of the world's greatest government and homebase of Congress which insists on adopting a Federal Anti-Lynching law against something that virtually doesn't exist it is found that the 160 rapes for a city of 802,178 citizens represents a shocking sexual assault case rate of one per 5,013 persons.

Washington's rape rate is 109 times greater than that of Mississippi. There are three rapes per week each passing week within a radius of a couple of miles from the Halls of Congress.

The national rape rate is 76 times greater than that of Mississippi and if it were not for the very low criminal assault factor in the South, what a scandalous picture would be drawn for America!

While pinkish liberals of both parties weep and moan over Mississippi, these same pious "gentlemen" show no alarm whatsoever for the sacredness of their own wives, daughters, mothers and clerical help. Only God alone knows what prompts supposedly intelligent men to have such warped opinions over social problems.

It is too much to hope that the women of America could have enough influence on Congress to get a Federal Anti-Rape Law passed, yet one organization of agitating, wild-eyed crackpots as is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People can move these mighty men to beat the drums, sound the trumpets and enact a law which will cause an ever-increasing number of rapings, murders and mob violence and lynchings.

Some people feel pity for the pregnant white woman who was ravaged by a Negro in front of her four-year-old child.

Untold millions of people feel pity for the Negro rapist who was kidnaped from a jail and probably killed.

While our sympathy goes out to the woman and while we abhor mob violence, our greatest measure of pity at this moment goes out to those stupid asses in Congress.

(over)