



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBIA

J. STROM THURMOND
GOVERNOR

The case of Willie Earle is not only regrettable, but is a blot on the state of South Carolina. I have ordered Chief Joel Townsend of the State Constabulary to use every facility at his disposal until this case has been completely solved. He has been given the authority to call in as many constables as he needs. This is the first such incident in about twenty years, and I am determined to do everything within my power to hold those involved responsible to the courts of this State. This crime is a disgrace to the state and it is a shame that the decent people of South Carolina must bear this infamy. The people of this State do not condone mob rule, and every effort will be made to apprehend the persons responsible for this atrocity. Such offenses against decency, law and the democratic way of living will not be tolerated by the law abiding citizens of this State. Mob rule is against every principal for which we have so recently sacrificed so much, and we expect to combat it with the same determination.

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given to Press
Feb, 18, 1947

W.S. Murray
Press Release file