

SEEK NEW TRIAL FOR
RAPE CHARGE VICTIM

New York, N.Y., March — In a last minute effort to save the life of 20-year-old Samuel Taylor, convicted of rape by an Alabama court, attorneys for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on March 3, filed a petition with the Supreme Court of the United States, seeking a review of the judgment of the Alabama Supreme Court which confirmed the death sentence imposed by the Circuit Court of Mobile County.

Charging that the youth's conviction was obtained through the use of a confession extorted by force, violence and fear, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, the NAACP petition seeks a new trial free from fear. Pending the review of his case, Taylor has been granted a reprieve by Gov. James E. Folsom until April 23.

Arrested with three other Negro youths in the small town of Prichard, Alabama, nearly two years ago, Taylor was charged with the rape of a 14-year-old white school girl. Removed to the city jail, he was grilled, brutally beaten and otherwise mistreated by several police officers for a period of four consecutive nights, the petition alleges. His companions, charged with robbery, were similarly brutalized.

In fear of his life, Taylor confessed to the crime which the police accused him of having committed. Because of this fear, he failed to call to the attention of the attorney appointed to defend him the violent means by which the confession was extorted. He was convicted by the Alabama Court on Nov. 19, 1946.

Following his conviction and a futile appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court, his attorney filed the petition for a review of the judgment on the grounds that he had obtained new evidence that the confession used to convict Taylor had been extorted by torture. Supporting the petition were affidavits signed by the three youths arrested with Taylor who witnessed the police assault. The Supreme Court of Alabama rejected this application for a writ of error coram nobis. The NAACP petition to the U.S. Supreme Court cites this refusal of the Alabama court as further grounds for granting a review of the case.

RENEW PLEA FOR BASIC
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. March — Implementation of an effective program of civil liberties was urged upon the Conference on Human Rights and Freedom of Information by Walter White who, together with Dr. Raymond Logan of Howard University, represented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the meeting here on Thurs. March 4.

The NAACP representatives expressed the opinion that the conference, called by the State Department, was devoted too much to consideration of what couldn't be done rather than to devising means of working out a program to assure essential human liberties to all mankind. Renewing the NAACP demand for the establishment of an international court of human rights, Messrs. White and Logan drew up a memorandum to be submitted through the State Department to the American members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

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