

**NEW TRIAL SOUGHT FOR
CONVICTED ALA. YOUTH**

WASHINGTON — Charging that Samuel Taylor, imprisoned Alabama youth, had been prevented by lower court decisions from following normal channels in efforts to secure a new trial, NAACP lawyers have filed a petition seeking intervention of the United States Supreme Court in a special proceeding for a review of the lower courts' findings.

The suit, filed on September 14, by Thurgood Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, and Nesbit Elmore, Montgomery, Alabama, attorney, seeks to establish the right to have a full hearing in a federal court of the validity of convictions secured in violation of the Constitution.

Taylor was convicted on the basis of an allegedly coerced confession. His attorneys maintain that conviction on such a confession is violative of his rights under the 14th Amendment.

Taylor, who has been under sentence to death for nearly two years, was convicted by an all-white jury in Mobile in November, 1946, charged with the rape of a 14-year-old white girl. A confession, which he later repudiated, claiming that it was extorted by police beatings, was used to convict him.

Three times he was within the shadow of the gallows while NAACP lawyers battled through all levels of state and federal courts in an effort to secure a new trial. Court after court denied the appeals or refused to grant the necessary certificates. Meanwhile last minute stays of execution were obtained.

In this latest move to secure justice for Taylor, the lawyers ask the United States Supreme Court to "once more reaffirm the fundamental role of the writ of habeas corpus in the scheme of human liberty by establishing that a federal district

court may not refuse to make an independent investigation into the merits of a petition with the excuse that a state court has found the claim of right so insubstantial as not to require a hearing."

**SEEK GOVERNOR'S AID
IN SLAYING OF VOTER**

NEW YORK — M. E. Thompson, outgoing Governor of Georgia, has given assurance of his "willingness to do everything I can, as long as I am Chief Executive, to see that those violating the law of this state are brought to justice."

The Governor's position was expressed in a letter to Thurgood Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, who had protested the election day slaying of Isiah Nixon, 28-year-old Negro of Mt. Vernon, who had voted in the recent Georgia Democratic primary despite the threats and warnings of white persons. Two white men, brothers, M. A. and Johnnie Johnson, were arrested and charged with the murder.

It was his understanding, Governor Thompson said in his letter to Mr. Marshall, that the case was "being pushed vigorously by the prosecuting authorities in the judicial circuit where the alleged murder occurred." The slaying grew out of the primary election in which Governor Thompson was defeated.

REDUCE VETERANS' SENTENCES

NEW YORK — Life sentences imposed upon two ex-servicemen for alleged rape of German women while serving in the Army of Occupation have been reduced following intervention of the NAACP legal department. The sentence of Robert Payne, who was convicted by a General Court-Martial on June 5, 1944, was reduced to 18 years,

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