

# LAW & JUSTICE

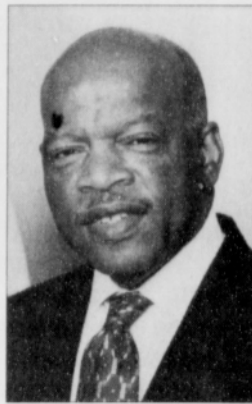
## Congress Moves on Unsolved Murders

### Division would review Civil Rights-era cases

(AP) -- The U.S. House has passed a bill to establish a new division of federal prosecutors and FBI agents focused strictly on cracking unsolved murders from the civil rights era. The bill, which is also moving swiftly through the Senate, would authorize \$10 million a year over the next decade to create a unit at the Justice Department to pursue cases that have sat cold for decades. It also would

earmark \$2 million per year in grants for state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate cases where federal prosecution isn't practical, and another \$1.5 million to improve coordination among investigating agencies. The bill, passed 422-2, is named in honor of Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago who was beaten and murdered in Mississippi in 1955 after being accused of whistling at a white woman. His killers were never convicted.

"We must do something to right these wrongs," said Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat and civil rights veteran who sponsored the bill. "We



*"We have an obligation ... let us move to close this dark stain on our nation's history."*

- U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga.

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State and federal prosecutors have had a string of successes recently in

reopening racially motivated slayings from the 1950s and 1960s, including the 1963 Birmingham, Ala., church bombing and the 1964 slayings of three civil rights volunteers in Mississippi.

Most recently, prosecutors won the conviction of reputed Klansman James Ford Seale on federal charges of kidnapping and conspiracy in the 1964 deaths of Charles Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dec. The 19-year-olds disappeared from Franklin County, Miss., in 1964, and their bodies were found later in the Mississippi River.

Earlier this year, the Justice Department announced it was reopening investigations into about a dozen suspicious deaths in the South. But lawmakers and advocates say there are dozens, if not hundreds, more cases that are ripe for review.

## Old Files Contain Disturbing Revelation: FBI investigated Georgia Governor in lynching

(AP) - Newly released files from the lynching of two black couples in Monroe, Ga. more than 60 years ago contain a disturbing revelation: The FBI investigated suspicions that a three-term governor of Georgia sanctioned the murders to sway rural white voters during a tough election campaign.

The 3,725 pages obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act do not make conclusions about the still-unsolved killings at Moore's Ford Bridge. But they raise the possibility that Eugene Talmadge's politics may have been a factor when a white mob dragged the four from a car, tied them to a tree and opened fire.

"I'm not surprised ... historians over the years have concluded the violently racist tone of his 1946 campaign may have been indirectly responsible for the violence that came at Moore's Ford," said Robert Pratt, a University of Georgia history professor who has studied the case. "It's fair to say he's one of the most virulently racist governors the state has ever had."

Talmadge, who died just months after his 1946 election to a fourth term, dominated Georgia politics in the 1930s and 1940s with a mix of racism and pocketbook populism.

He came under FBI scrutiny because of a visit he made to the north Georgia town of Monroe two days before the Democratic gubernatorial primary and a day after a highly charged racial incident there, a fight in which a black sharecropper



Georgia Gov. Eugene Talmadge attends a Democratic National Committee meeting in 1936. (AP Photo)

stabbed and severely wounded a white farmer. The sharecropper was one of the four people who would later be lynched.

In a report sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the agent in charge of the investigation said Talmadge met with George Hester, the brother of the stabbed farmer. Citing an unconfirmed witness statement, the agent said Talmadge offered immunity to anyone "taking care of negro."

While the agent dismissed the notion of Talmadge's involvement as "unbelievable," he said it still merited investigation. Other memos

raised suspicions that state employees could even have been active participants in the lynching.

The lynchings of Roger and Dorothy Malcom, and George and Mae Murray Dorsey on July 25, 1946, came eight days after the election and followed weeks of simmering tensions.

There were rumors that George Dorsey, an Army veteran, had secretly been dating a white woman — a taboo in the segregated South. And the town's white establishment was enraged with Roger Malcom, who was imprisoned after stabbing white farmer Barney

Hester. Malcom was waiting in jail when white farmer Loy Harrison paid \$600 to bail him out.

Harrison said he was driving Malcom, his wife and the other couple home, when he was ambushed by a white mob that surrounded his car near the Moore's Ford Bridge. As many as 30 people converged on the vehicle and pulled out the two couples, dragged them down a nearby trail and tied them to trees.

Then the mob fired three volleys of bullets at the couples, leaving their dead bodies slumped behind in the dirt. One of the victims, Dorothy Malcom, was seven months' pregnant.

An outraged President Truman dispatched FBI agents to Monroe, about 45 miles east of Atlanta. But the local community — both white and black — clammed up.

White farmers were described by the FBI as "extremely clannish, not well educated and highly sensitive to 'outside' criticism." Harrison, for one, told police he couldn't identify any of the participants.

Black families, who often sharecropped on white farms, were "frightened and even terrified" when approached by FBI agents.

The Moore's Ford lynching is among about a dozen other unsolved cases from the civil rights era that the FBI has recently reopened but the bureau refused to comment on the ongoing investigation.

## Apology to Teens Kicked Off Bus

(AP) — TriMet has apologized to the family of a lesbian teenager who was kicked off a bus when a passenger complained about her kissing another girl.

"Removing the girls from the bus was not consistent with our policy," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen. "I want to reiterate that we welcome all riders on our system."

The 64-year-old bus driver will face disciplinary action for removing the two 14-year-old girls during a June 8 incident aboard his bus, TriMet officials said. But no details about

the discipline were released. The driver, an 11-year veteran, violated several agency procedures and policies, officials said.

The girls said the driver called them "sickos" after a female passenger complained about their kiss. He then stopped the bus along the street and forced them off.

The actions by the girls did not warrant being removed from the bus, and TriMet policy requires operators to call for assistance before removing any minors, a June 20 statement from the transit agency said.

## Credit Card Thief Wanted

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for help in apprehending a suspected thief.

Portland Police Detectives are conducting an investigation involving identity theft where credit cards have been taken in residential burglaries. Debra Lee McIntyre, 46 has been linked to the fraudulent use of those credit cards. She's also wanted on mul-

tiples counts of identity theft in Clackamas County.

McIntyre is described as a white female, 5-foot-11 and 145 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. She has tattoos on her back, right wrist, and a mole on her left cheek.

Police said McIntyre has lived in the Sellwood area and in Milwaukee and has a long history of fraud, identity theft and drug

use. She also uses the following aliases: Margie Gates, Margie Voyles, Elaina Weimer, Elaina Untalan, and Debra Krajieski.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony, and you remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP(4357).



Debra McIntyre

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This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.