

Dewey 'Out' To Freeport Delegation

By CLAUDIA JONES

ALBANY, May 3.—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey was conveniently away on his farm in Pawling today when Cpl. Edward Ferguson came to tell how his brother Charles, a GI, was shot to death by a Freeport, N. Y., cop.

Snubbed by the Governor, Cpl. Ferguson led a protest picket line of 200 persons, including two New York City Councilmen, in front of the Executive Mansion.

The Governor had long ago been informed the delegation was coming to see him. They had come to ask him to probe patrolman Joseph Romelka's slaying of Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, without provocation, Feb. 5.

TAKEN TO UNDERLING

The delegates, taken to see press secretary James A. Hagerty, refused to speak to what they termed an "underling" of Gov. Dewey.

Meeting in the assembly chambers, delegates heard Manhattan Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., and Eugene Connolly say the fight to end lynch justice is not over.

"Gov. Dewey will not be allowed to ignore this case," said ALP Councilman Connolly. "What is Gov. Dewey afraid of? He knows that D.A.'s can be superseded. Doesn't he know that one of these men received a citation from the President of the U. S. only a day ago?"

READ CITATION

Communist Councilman Davis read the citation given Charles Ferguson. He told the applauding delegates that Dewey's failure to see a Freeport justice delegation for the third time was "utterly contemptuous" with respect "to Negro citizens, to labor and minorities," and that "his attitude in this respect was no different than that shown by Nassau County officials."

He proposed a three-point strategy which was unanimously adopted:

1. That the people track Dewey down and "smoke him out" on this case.

2. That a larger mass delegation be planned.

3. That they picket the Executive Mansion.

Both Davis and Connolly compared Dewey's anxiety to investigate the O'Connell machine in Albany with his reluctance to investigate Freeport.

ACCUSATION

Attorney Stanley Faulkner stated: "The man that murdered the Ferguson brothers is still whitewashed by the District Attorney of Nassau County and the Governor of the state. Maybe the fact that J. Russell Sprague of the GOP is sponsor of Dewey is one of the reasons Dewey won't supersede the D. A."

Earlier the delegates marched from Union Station to State St., carrying placards which read: "The Ferguson Brothers Have Died—Romelka Must Be Tried," "End Lynch Justice—Dewey Act Now," "You Can't Play Politics With Justice," "Killed in Line of Duty, No Action—Dewey."

Ens. Walter Harris of the S.S. Booker T. Washington led the marchers. A large representation came from upstate. Organizations represented included Veterans and Wives, United Public Workers, CIO; Dept. Store Workers, NMU; Packinghouse Workers, Furriers Union, Communist Party, IWO, United Veterans for Equality, Veterans Against Discrimination, Domestic Workers Union, American Veterans Committee and American Jewish Congress.