

QUOTATIONS
OF
JUDGE PARKER

"SOMETIMES YOU WILL FIND GOOD MEN INVOLVED IN THINGS (MOB VIOLENCE) OF THAT KIND. IT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN COURTS AND JURIES,"

"I NEVER HANGED A MAN, IT WAS THE LAW."

"MURDERS ARE ON THE INCREASE . . . I ATTRIBUTE THE INCREASE TO THE SUPREME COURT . . . THE MURDERER HAS A LONG BREATHING SPELL BEFORE HIS CASE COMES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, THEN THE CONVICTION MAY BE QUASHED UPON THE FLIMSIEST TECHNICALITIES. THE SUPREME COURT NEVER TOUCHES THE MERIT OF THE CASE."

"GENTLEMEN, THE VERY POWER AND MAJESTY OF THIS GOVERNMENT AND THIS LAW IS IN YOUR HANDS. WHILE IT IS NOT THERE IN BURNING LETTERS OVER THE DOOR, SEE TO IT THAT THE MAXIM THAT NO GUILTY MAN SHALL ESCAPE AND NO INNOCENT MAN SHALL BE PUNISHED, SHALL BE VERIFIED IN THIS CASE, AS IT SHOULD BE IN EVERY CASE. YOU WILL RETIRE TO MAKE YOU VERDICT."

"I AM MINDFUL, OF COURSE, OF THE WISE AND MERCIFUL PROVISION OF THE LAW, WHICH DECLARES IT BETTER THAT NINETY-FIVE GUILTY ONES SHOULD ESCAPE THAN THAT ONE INNOCENT MAN SHOULD SUFFER."

"THE COURT IS BUT THE INSTRUMENT OF THE LAW IN EXECUTING ITS MANDATES."

"SYMPATHY SHOULD NOT BE RESERVED WHOLLY FOR THE-CRIMINAL. I BELIEVE IN STANDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE INNOCENT . . . QUIET, PEACEFUL, LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN. IS THERE NO SYMPATHY FOR HIM?"

"I DO NOT DESIRE TO HANG YOU MEN, IT IS THE LAW."

"AT THE PRESENT THERE SEEMS TO BE A CRIMINAL WAVE SWEEPING OVER THE COUNTRY, THE LIKE OF WHICH, I HAVE NOT SEEN BEFORE. IT IS DUE TO THE LAXITY OF THE COURTS."

"I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO APPEAL. I EVEN FAVOR ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY PROVIDED THERE IS A CERTAINTY OF PUNISHMENT, FOR THE UNCERTAINTY OF PUNISHMENT FOLLOWING CRIME LIES THE WEAKNESS OF OUR HALTING JUSTICE."

"LIBERTY AND LIFE ARE PRECARIOUS UNLESS THOSE IN AUTHORITY HAVE SENSE AND SPIRIT ENOUGH TO DEFEND THEM UNDER THE LAW."

"THE SWORD OF HUMAN JUSTICE TREMBLES OVER YOU AND IS ABOUT TO FALL UPON YOUR GUILTY HEAD."

"WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE SOLITUDE OF YOUR PRISON . . . BRING TO YOUR RECOLLECTION THE MORTAL STRUGGLES AND DYING GROANS OF YOUR MURDERED VICTIM."

"MAY GOD WHOSE LAWS YOU HAVE BROKEN AND BEFORE WHOSE TRIBUNAL YOU MUST THEN APPEAR, HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL."

"I HAVE THIS MUCH SATISFACTION AFTER MY TWENTY YEARS OF LABOR: THE COURT AT FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO THE STRONG ARM OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS RESULTED IN BRINGING TO THE INDIAN TERRITORY, CIVILIZATION AND PROTECTION."