

# Voters Approve Federal Lynch Law 7-3; Action by Congress Pends

## Even Southern Section Endorses Federal Bill In Institute Survey

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP  
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—When Congress convenes on Monday one of the first pieces of business before the Senate will be H. R. 1507, the highly controversial measure which seeks to make lynching a Federal crime. To avoid a parliamentary tangle last August, the Senate temporarily ducked this load of legislative dynamite, but put it down for "must" consideration at the next sitting.

An acrimonious and perhaps prolonged debate on the bill now seems inevitable, for no legislation in recent years has stirred up such determined sectional hostility in Congress as the lynch bill.

Yet a nation-wide survey just completed by the American Institute of Public Opinion reveals relatively little sectional hostility on the part of voters to Federal action against lynching.

In the nation as a whole, more than 7 out of every 10 persons polled approve a Federal lynch law, and in the South, where the greatest number of lynchings occur, the vote is in favor of it.

This exclusive and unique study in public opinion points up two important conclusions:

1. The public's attitude toward a Federal lynch law differs strikingly from the attitude of many members of Congress.
2. Probably politicians from the South and elsewhere who support Federal action have less cause to fear reprisals from the voters back home than they have heretofore imagined.

### Accuracy of Poll Indicated Again By Recent Elections

The American Institute's national survey was conducted by the same methods again proved accurate in forecasting the recent mayoralty elections in New York and Detroit. A typical, scientifically-selected cross-section of voters in every state was asked:

"Should Congress pass a law which would make lynching a Federal crime?"

The national vote was:—

Yes ..... 72%  
No ..... 28

The vote in the South was:

Yes ..... 57%  
No ..... 43

Overwhelming majorities in the affirmative were found in all other sections, ranging from 79% in the Middle Atlantic States, to 65% on the Pacific Coast.

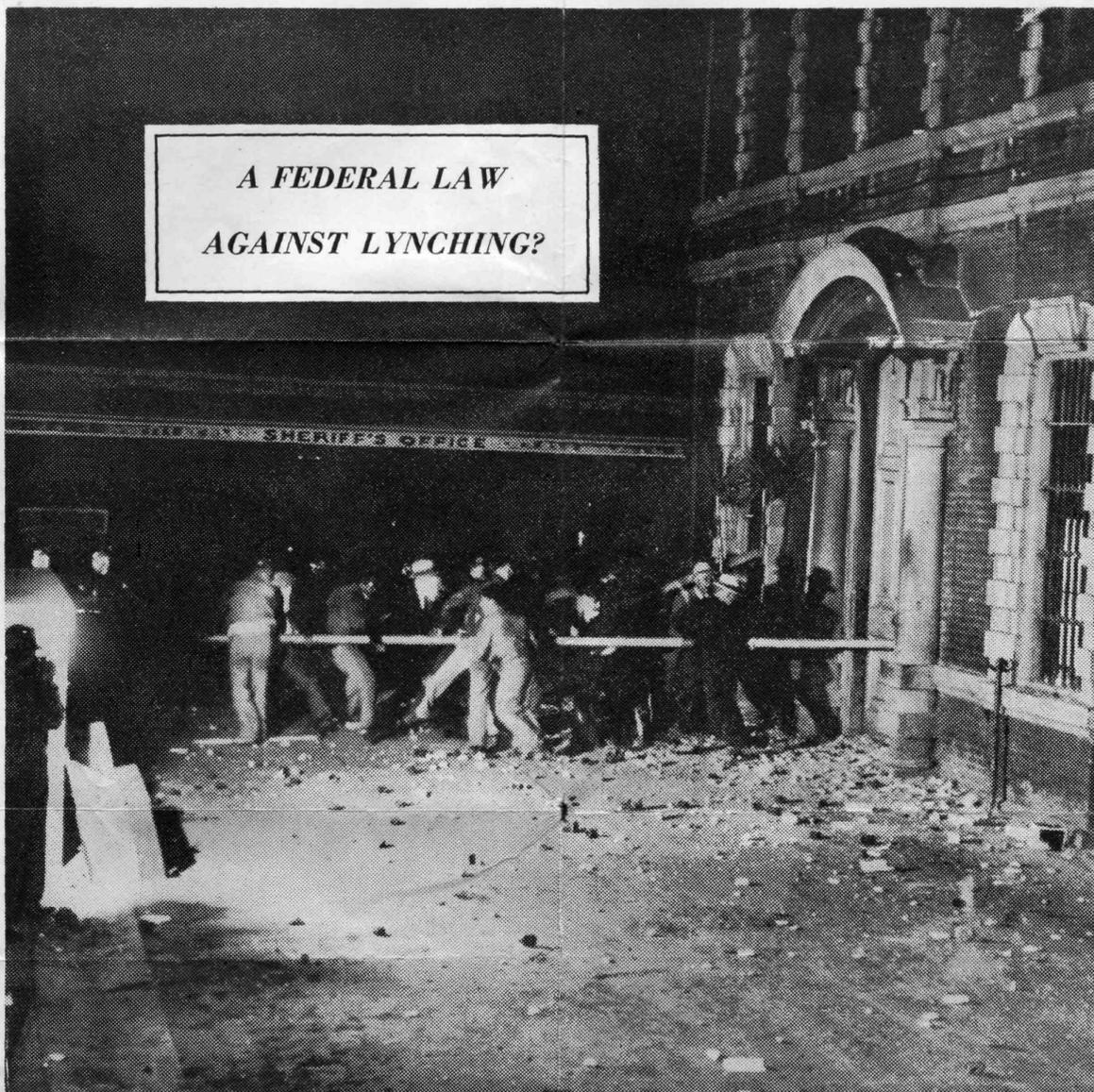
Moreover, the current survey found that sentiment for Federal action is slightly on the increase. When the Institute made a similar survey last January the national vote in favor of a Federal lynch law was 70%, as compared to 72% today.

### Proposed Law Would Fine Counties Where Lynchings Occur

The Federal lynch law controversy was pushed into the limelight early this year when the House of Representatives passed an anti-lynch bill sponsored by Representative Gavagan (D., N. Y.).

The Gavagan Bill, which will come before the Senate at this sitting, provides: (1) Fine or imprisonment for any peace officer who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner from a lynch mob; (2) Imprisonment for any peace officer who conspires to turn a prisoner over to a mob; (3) damages of \$2,000 to \$10,000 to be assessed against any county in which a prisoner has been seized by a mob or in which a lynching occurs. The damages thus collected are to be

## Lynch Mob Batters Down California Jail



This bloodthirsty San Jose mob abducted two confessed slayers awaiting trial and strung them up on a tree in a nearby park.

A FEDERAL LAW  
AGAINST LYNCHING?

### RESULTS OF LYNCHING SURVEY

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New England (Maine, N. H., Vt., Mass., Conn., R. I.)	75	25
Middle Atlantic (N. Y., N. J., Pa., Del., Md., W. Va.)	79	21
East Central (Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich.)	77	23
West Central (Wis., Minn., Ia., Mo., Kan., Neb., N. D., S. D.)	78	22
South (Va., Ky., Tenn., N. C., S. C., Ga., Fla., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Tex., Okla.)	57	43
Rocky Mountain (Mont., Ida., Wyo., Colo., Utah, Nev., Ariz., N. Mex.)	75	25
Pacific Coast (Calif., Ore., Wash.)	65	35

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Since these families for the most part cannot afford hospital care or the services of expert doctors and nurses, many state and local governments have been spending money to help care for maternity cases.

Because such appropriations are necessarily limited, the U. S. Children's Bureau and other organizations have been advocating that the Federal government join in aiding mothers during pregnancy, child birth and post-natal care.



A nation-wide survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion indicates that a large-scale Federal program for aid to mothers would be immensely popular.

More than 8 out of every 10 persons polled, men and women alike, say the Federal government should take this action.

The survey asked voters: "Should the Federal government aid state and local governments in providing medical care for mothers at child-birth?" The replies were:

Yes ..... 81%  
No ..... 19

## U. S. Voters Oppose Hitler's Demand for Return of Colonies

By Institute of Public Opinion

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—Should the colonies Germany lost after the World War be given back to her?

Hitler says "yes," Mussolini said "yes" in a speech three weeks ago, Britain's Foreign Secretary Eden says "maybe." A few students of international affairs in the United States believe return of Germany's former colonies, which comprise an area six times the size of the Reich, would satisfy the national aims of that "have not" nation and make for peace in Europe.

But others disagree, arguing the Nazis would only grow bolder in their demands.

A nation-wide survey of voters in the United States indicates that public opinion in this country is hostile to a restoration of the German colonial empire. The chief reason given by voters is that Germany, in declaring war in 1914, risked the loss of territory and must therefore abide by the results.

The American Institute of Public Opinion survey asked voters in all states: "Should the colonies taken from Germany after the World War be given back to her?"

The vote:

Yes ..... 24%  
No ..... 76

American opinion on this question is not colored by any greed on our part, for the United States received no territorial spoils from Germany as a result of the war. The German colonies were divided chiefly between France and Great Britain.

### Experts Say Return Will Not Help Reich

While the attitude of the American public will no doubt be deplored by all good Nazis, many international experts will find it realistic. These say that Hitler's colonial demands are largely camouflage and that what Germany really wants is more territory in Europe.

Return of Germany's colonies would not, in the opinion of experts, solve the Reich's problems. Her population would not migrate to the hot tropics of Africa, where most of the colonies are, and the output of the colonies would not satisfy Hitler's demands for foodstuffs and raw materials.

In 1914 Germany's trade with her colonies amounted to less than 1 per cent of her total world trade. Since the War she has managed to keep about half of the trade with her old colonies, so that a formal restoration of the territory would improve her economic position but little.

Hitler is apparently aware of this. He wrote in *Mein Kampf*: "We have finished with the pre-war policy of colonies and trade, and are going over to the land policy of the future"—by which he meant expansion in eastern Europe. On another occasion he wrote:

### Germany Lost Nine Colonies

The World War cost Germany 13% of her territory in Europe and all of her colonial possessions. The latter, comprising an area six times larger than the Reich, were divided after the war as follows:—

1. German East Africa, now under British and Belgian mandate.
2. German Southwest Africa, now under Union of South Africa mandate.
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4. Togoland, now British and French mandate.
5. Caroline and Marshall Islands in the Pacific, now under Japanese mandate.

"A policy of land acquisition cannot be carried out in places like the Cameroons, but is today almost exclusively possible in Europe."

Furthermore, Germany's needs are immediate. As the history books record, the development of colonies is a long process in which great quantities of money must be spent before any real dividends in the form of raw materials accrue.

But Eastern Europe offers the possibility of immediate economic exploitation. Czechoslovakia, with its rich industrial centers, is almost completely surrounded by Germanic peoples. Military weak Roumania, with her wheat fields

Ballot 796, 102

### By Recent Elections

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Opposition to a Federal lynch law is not confined to Southern members of Congress. Senator Borah of Idaho has also opposed Federal action on constitutional grounds. But the main arguments against the lynch bill have been put forward by Southern Senators. Senator Bailey of North Carolina summed up the case when he said recently:

**"What power has the Federal government over a sheriff in North Carolina? The sheriff is responsible to North Carolina, and when you destroy that responsibility you destroy free government."**

Those who favor Federal action base their case on the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides that "no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws." The proponents of a Congressional lynch law claim that since a lynching violates the provisions of this Amendment the Federal government has a right to step in.

The public's vote in favor of Federal action is undoubtedly influenced by the enormous publicity given to lynchings. Actually, however, many more lynchings are prevented by vigilant local officers than are carried out. In 1935, the latest year for which records are available, there were 53 instances in which the police prevented mob action, as against 20 successful lynchings. And the 20 lynchings of 1935 represent a sharp decline from a generation ago. In 1901 there were 130.

### Next Week-- Roosevelt's Popularity

ONE year ago this month President Roosevelt received a little more than 62 per cent of the major party presidential vote, to win his second term in the White House.

**What would Roosevelt poll if election were today?**

The American Institute of Public Opinion has made a month-by-month audit of Roosevelt's popularity. The Institute has questioned thousands of representative voters in every state in the union. Next Sunday it will report to the (NAME OF PAPER) what the voters are saying.

Two months ago, when the last Institute report on Roosevelt was made, the President stood at 60.4 per cent—about two points below his election majority. Since that time there has been a sharp decline in the stock market. Has the decline affected FDR's popularity? Which way is Roosevelt's popularity moving as the nation enters 1938 and another national election campaign?

These are some of the questions the new Institute survey on Roosevelt will answer next Sunday in the (NAME OF PAPER), where Institute polls are published exclusively in the (CIRCULATION AREA).



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Pacific Coast	65	35
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Also reported today is a poll on the subject of returning Germany's colonies to her.

THE QUESTION: Should the colonies taken from Germany after the World War be given back to her?

	Yes	No
Vote of United States	24%	76%
Vote of Great Britain	24	76

(By British Institute of Public Opinion)

# America Speaks

Comments from the Nation

#### THE QUESTION

Should Congress pass a bill which would make lynching a Federal crime?

#### VOTERS ANSWER

Following are a few comments typical of thousands received from voters in the Institute's nation-wide poll on lynching.

#### MARYLAND CABINET MAKER:

Fred F. Harver, Fallston—No. This can be handled better by the states than by the Federal Government, and will result in keeping power within the state rather than centralizing it in Washington. Too much centralization of power in the Federal government I believe to be bad.

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Most states have the proper law enforcement officers to handle this problem and are increasing their efficiency daily. A multiplicity of officials working at one thing often results in a general mix-up, as frequently happened during prohibition days.

MINNESOTA SECRETARY: Victoria M. Olmsted, Minneapolis—Although police powers should ordinarily be reserved to the States, in this case I feel that lynching should be made a Federal crime in order to obviate local protection of the offenders and speed up their prosecution. Local authorities are either afraid or incompetent to enforce such state laws as there are.

#### ALABAMA FARM WIFE: Mrs.

Thos. W. Webb, Prattville—Yes, I think Congress should pass an anti-lynching law. We should have regularly established authority to hear and decide lynching cases and place punishment. No body or group of sometimes ignorant, sometimes vengeful men should take the law into their own hands. Every criminal must be guaranteed a fair trial.

#### TEXAS SECRETARY: Marguerite

L. Bettison, San Antonio—I think lynching should most emphatically be a Federal crime. It is always the result of mob hysteria. They often kill innocent people, which is the same as murder. We should make our laws for the protection of criminals function fairly.

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The proposition cuts across party lines. Even Republicans, many of whom believe as a general principle that the Federal government should not interfere in local affairs, are overwhelmingly in favor of Federal aid to mothers.

Undoubtedly the reason for the decisive vote throughout the country is the humanitarian appeal of the proposal—the feeling of sympathy for mothers who lack adequate care during confinement.

### Half of Maternal Deaths Are Preventable, Experts Say

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The Federal government is already spending a small sum of money for medical care of mothers. Under a little-known provision of the Social Security Act, Congress appropriated \$3,800,000 for grants-in-aid to the States in promoting maternal care.

While health officers are glad to have this money, they declare it is inadequate. They point out that last year Congress authorized expenditure of about the same amount of money for the conservation of wild life and they think the Federal government should give as much consideration to needy mothers as to deer, black bears and wild grouse.

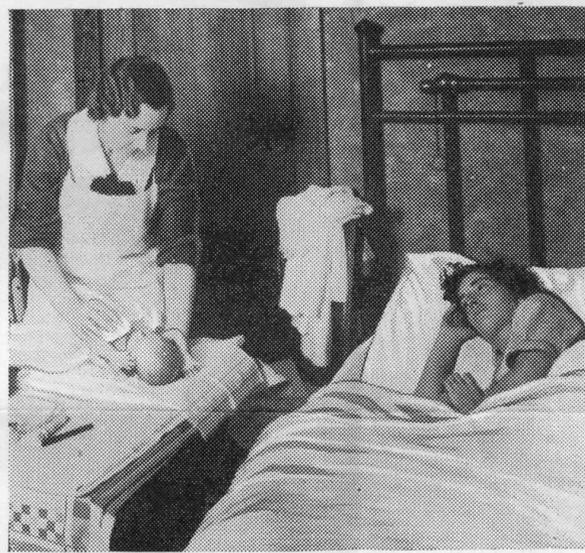
According to reliable studies in maternal mortality, from one-half to two-thirds of the deaths of mothers in childbirth could be prevented through adequate medical and nursing care.

In 1935 nearly 15,000 mothers died as a result of childbirth. But experts say this fact does not tell the whole story because no one knows how many thousands of children are left motherless by these deaths and begin drifting into juvenile delinquency as a result of a broken home.

In Sweden, where almost every mother has expert care at childbirth, and where obstetrical consultation is available for a large proportion of the population, the maternal death rate is less than half what it is in the United States.

The public's favorable reaction to a program of Federal aid to mothers is especially interesting in view of the declaration signed last week by over 400 prominent doctors who favor cooperation between the medical profession and the government in improving public health.

### Federal Aid to Mothers?



This Rural Health Nurse visiting a maternity case is partly paid by the Federal government through a small appropriation under the Social Security Act. Voters in a nation-wide survey say the Federal government should adopt a broad program of financial aid to mothers in childbirth.

### Will Not Help Reich

While the attitude of the American public will no doubt be deplored by all good Nazis, many international experts will find it realistic. These say that Hitler's colonial demands are largely camouflage and that what Germany really wants is more territory in Europe.

Return of Germany's colonies would not, in the opinion of experts, solve the Reich's problems. Her population would not migrate to the hot tropics of Africa, where most of the colonies are, and the output of the colonies would not satisfy Hitler's demands for foodstuffs and raw materials.

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5. Caroline and Marshall Islands in the Pacific, now under Japanese mandate.
6. Kiaochow, China, returned to China by Japan in 1922.
7. Nauru Island in the Pacific, now British mandate.
8. New Guinea in the Pacific, now Australian mandate.
9. German Samoa in the Pacific, now New Zealand mandate.

Germany's main losses in Europe proper were Alsace-Lorraine, returned to France, and part of Eastern and Upper Silesia, ceded to Poland.

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Furthermore, Germany's needs are immediate. As the history books record, the development of colonies is a long process in which great quantities of money must be spent before any real dividends in the form of raw materials accrue.

But Eastern Europe offers the possibility of immediate economic exploitation. Czechoslovakia, with its rich industrial centers, is almost completely surrounded by Germanic peoples. Militarily weak Roumania, with her wheat fields and oil wells, is within easy reach. And beyond lies the fertile Ukraine, which Germany controlled for a brief period during the War.

### Would Proposal Prevent War?

As the poll shows, about one-quarter of the voters in this country are sympathetic to Germany's economic plight. This minority advances four main reasons for the return of her colonies. They are:

1. Return of the colonies would prevent trouble—would stave off another World War.
2. Germany was not to blame for the War and should not be made to suffer.
3. The colonies rightfully belong to Germany.
4. She needs more land.

The majority, on the other hand, gives these reasons for not returning the colonies to Germany:

1. The Allies won them as legitimate spoils of war, and Germany, who declared war on the Allies, must abide by the results

2. Return of the colonies would only feed Germany's imperialistic aims.

3. The democratic countries should not give in to Germany so long as Hitler remains in power.

Sentiment against returning Germany's colonies is uniformly high in all geographical areas. The sections containing New York and Wisconsin, centers of German population in this country, vote a little more in favor of returning the colonies than do other sections. But the difference is not great.

### Give Germany Her Colonies?

	Yes	No
New England	26%	74%
Middle Atlantic	26	74
East Central	23	77
West Central	26	74
South	22	78
Rocky Mountain	22	78
Pacific Coast	24	76

In recent years the younger generation of Americans has been taught that Germany was not alone to blame for the World War. But today's survey finds that young voters are about as much opposed to restoring the German colonies as the older generations.

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