

To the Honorable Prison Commission and

His Excellency the Governor of the State of Georgia.

As Ministers of the Gospel and residents of Atlanta and citizens of Georgia, we, the undersigned, in the exercise of our conscience, herewith present to the Honorable Prison Commission of Georgia and His Excellency, the Governor of Georgia, a petition for the commutation of the sentence to death of Leo M. Frank.

We desire to state that we are moved to this petition through no connection, whatever, with other similar movements, but wholly in the exercise of our sense of obligation to justice and the welfare of Georgia. Without touching upon many of the features of the case which could be urged from legal and other standpoints, we confine ourselves respectfully to five statements, expressing our conscience in this case.

First.

That we honor and approve the ability and fidelity of the Honorable Hugh M. Dorsey, Solicitor General, for his skillful and powerful conduct of the state's case in the discharge of his sworn duty as a public prosecutor, a fact sufficiently approved by the reviewing courts of Georgia and the Nation. The commutation of the sentence would *not* be a still further confirmation of the approval of Mr. Dorsey's fidelity and capacity as a public prosecutor.

Second.

That the great doubt of thousands of the best citizens in Georgia who have followed the case from the beginning; the doubt in the judgement of the Trial Judge, publicly expressed, after hearing all the evidence and the dissenting opinions of able judges of the Georgia Supreme Court, constitutes a just ground for the exercise of your constitutional powers of commutation.

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Third.

That the life sentence under these circumstances will vindicate in its severity the demand of penalty and justice.

Fourth.

That under the conditions of doubt as indicated above and the possibility as revealed in human experience that time may disclose facts bearing on the case, not now in evidence, the commutation to life imprisonment, it seems to us, under all the circumstances, is the course demanded by justice, truth and humanity.

Fifth.

That this petition is presented in the discharge of our personal conscience as individual citizens who stand for the sanctity of law and the integrity of our courts whose officers we patriotically uphold in the performances of their solemn duties. But, we equally recognize the wisdom of the Constitution of the State which has placed in your hands the obligation to review the sentences of the Criminal courts whenever the facts and conditions are such as to demand it.

Respectfully Submitted.

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Rev. John E. White, Pastor Second Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. H. M. DuBose, Pastor First Methodist Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. Chas. W. Daniel, Pastor First Baptist Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. R. O. Flinn, Pastor N. Ave., Pres. Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. Jacob L. White, Pastor Tabernacle Bap. Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. A. R. Holderby, Pastor East Point Pres. Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. W. R. Hendrix, Pastor St. Marks Meth. Ch. Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. A. H. Gordon, Pastor Ponce DeLeon Bap. Ch, Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. Jerre A. Moore, Pastor Harris St. Pres. Ch. Atlanta, Ga.

Rev. C. B. Wilmer, Rect. St. Lukes Episcopal Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
~~Rev. R. J. Huff, Pastor Eagan Park Paptist Ch., Atlanta, Ga.~~  
Rev. R. J. Huff, Pastor Eagan Park Paptist Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. C. Lewis Fowler, Pastor Col. Park Bap. Ch., Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. Fritz Rauschenberg, Pastor Col. Pk. Pres. Ch. Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. W. E. Hill, Pastor West End Presbyterian Ch. Atlanta, Ga.  
Rev. G. R. Buford, Moore Memorial Pres. Church, Atlanta, Ga.

We also attach hereto letters asking for commutation  
from Rev. A. M. Hughlett, Presiding Elder Methodist Church,  
Atlanta, also letter from Rev. Russell K. Smith, Rector Epiphany  
Church, Atlanta, Ga.

GAR

Petition,  
Jno E White  
E B Wilmer  
R O Flinn  
A R Holdrege  
et al  
relating to Commutation  
Levi Frank

Copy - Originals  
in the file (later)  
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