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BIGOTS CHEER COUNCIL REFUSAL AFTER PROBE BY DECENT CITIZENRY

O'Dee Henderson Wouldn't Get Off Street for Fairfield Ala. Mill-Worker—Police Carry Him to Station Let Mill-Worker Beat Him in Face—Blackjacked Then Shot Their Handcuffed Prisoner.

FAIRFIELD, Ala., May 23—The bigoted populace of this race-prejudiced Southern Alabama town turned on Tuesday en masse to hear the Fairfield City Council bluntly refuse to dismiss or suspend police officers who beat and kill Negroes in these parts.

The assembled audience uttered and cracked jokes as Council Chairman Allgood cast his vote to over-ride the 3-3 tie of the city body and retain in good standing all of the policemen who allowed M. M. Hagood, 401 Dehardaleben avenue, a white steel-worker complainant to personally dog a prisoner, O'Dee Henderson, in the face with a strap while Henderson's hands were handcuffed behind him to a chair in the tumble-down shack that serves this town as a police station.

Henderson had been arrested after he had failed to get off the sidewalk for a much smaller white steelworker to pass by him. Several police officers also took part in administering the lashes

in the face to Anderson, and one of them, Policeman Tom Nelson hit Henderson over the head three times with a blackjack and then fired three fatal bullets into his body.

SOME WHITES WANT DECENCY

Officer Thomas Nelson has been suspended from the force for days and is being held on bond on manslaughter charges. Mayor Claude N. Gilley had asked the City Council to "go on record" being against police brutality against Negroes. With the exception of Councilmen W. D. Bell, J. M. Lee, R. L. Green and W. C. Odum, the City Council refused flatly on grounds that all Negroes are beaten as a rule at the jail, that it had been a custom for years and that every officer on the force and the police force was guilty of participating in the beatings.

Youthful Rev. Theodore Ely tower, while leading forces held the investigation, made a successful plea to the City Council to get the decent citizenry of Fairfield a complete investigation of the brutal floggings.