

“One Among Three Hundred” with, “it is somewhat comforting to think that the voice of Charles Gresham Marmion, crying alone in a wilderness of lawless passion, is more representative of Texas than the mad yells of the 300 who surrounded him.”²⁰

Politicians tended to temper their remarks. Two days after the lynching, the Columbus attorney who represented Colorado County in the state legislature, Charles Dominic Rutta, wrote to Marmion, commending him for his “heroic attempt” to prevent the lynching. Rutta, who was in Austin attending the second called session of the Forty-fourth Legislature, went on to commiserate with the mob, writing that though he was “opposed to mob violence at all times,” because of “the atrocious crime [to] which the lynch victims confessed,” he found it hard to “condem the enraged participants in the affair too severely.” Texas governor James V. Allred made a similarly tepid statement, weighing in with “lynching is deplorable at any time.” Charles Kennon Quin, the mayor of San Antonio who had lived in Colorado County for most of his life, declared, “Any mob violence ultimately becomes dangerous, but the populace sometimes becomes so enraged that it can not be controlled.”²¹

Other reaction was stronger. At the convention of the Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs, then underway at Austin, Jessie Harriet Daniel Ames, the executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, made an impromptu, impassioned speech. She attacked Colorado County Attorney Otto P. Moore for his statement regarding the lynching, charged Sheriff Hoegemeyer with laxity, and called on Governor Allred to launch an independent investigation of the affair. A black-owned and oriented newspaper, *The Informer*, also sharply criticized Moore’s statement, praised Ames and Marmion, and printed a cartoon depiction of the lynching under the heading “An Introduction to Culture—of the Southern Variety.” Even the *New York Times* weighed in with an editorial, arguing that the creation of the criminal justice system was the true expression of the will of the people, and, referring to the masks that the members of the lynch mob reportedly wore, that the true will of the people need not be “expressed with a handkerchief over its face.”²²