

On Tuesday night, November 12, 1918, I left Thomasville, Ga. in an auto about dusk, going to Quitman, 100 miles distant, arriving in the latter place after nightfall. In my company with Dr. Athens H. Grant and Dr. Wilson, physician who was sick with Spanish influenza, both of these physicians being colored, I went to Spratling's house and there presented the facts regarding the development of the case since the investigation. I laid especial emphasis on the absolute necessity of his appearing to testify at a hearing when held as well as on the fact that the Association was willing to (1) bear his railroad expenses to the North (2) secure a position in the North (3) support him until the hearing had been held and he was able to go to work. The conversation lasted over an hour, and Drs. Grant and Wilson both aided me in trying to win S. over to our plan.

At the time of my visit there, Spratling was unable to decide to leave for the following reasons:

1. He has five children, four of them his own, one a step-child. Two of the children are about eight months old and both are yet being fed from a bottle. Since I was in Quitman in July, S.'s wife has died and he has only an elderly lady (It is my impression that she is his mother) to help him care for them. S. does not want to bring them to the North at this time as he is fearful of climatic changes at their age.

2. In and around Quitman S. has a great many relatives (aunts, uncles and first and second cousins) and he is fearful, this fear being entirely justified because of the unlimited brutality of the mob element in that section since it is my information that since the lynchings of May, eight persons have either been lynched or have mysteriously disappeared after being called from their homes at night, seized by a waiting crowd and never seen thereafter. These eight persons had committed no crime but were relatives of some of the victims of May.

3. Spratling owns three pieces of property in Quitman, on one of which there is a building that cost \$1100.00. At the present time, he could dispose of these only at a great sacrifice.

I told S. that I could not promise anything definite but if it was possible, arrangements would be made either for him to make an affidavit containing the facts as he knows them, this to be used in lieu of his appearing in person, or else his appearance before the Committee could be

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kept a secret, his identity being kept to the members of the committee and ourselves. Not being able to promise anything definitely concerning these two things, I did not stress this point but continued to urge him to leave for good.

S. is a man of small education but of considerable intelligence and realizes fully just what he is doing and what the consequences of his action will be. Rev. Samuel S. Broadnax, the pastor of his church, with whom I had a long conference and during which I explained all of the details of the case, is working on S. and if anybody at all can persuade S. to leave, it is Rev. Broadnax, who has a great deal of influence with S. Dr. Wilson S.'s physician, is also doing all that he can to accomplish this end.