

RESOLUTION No. 16—H. F. No. 1338

An concurrent resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact a federal anti-lynching law.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

WHEREAS, more than 13 citizens of the United States in widely scattered sections of the country have been lynched during the past year, though a decrease over the previous year, yet sufficient to cause public expression of condemnation thereof to be made throughout the land; and

WHEREAS, lynching is an unlawful deprivation of the rights of the citizens to the protection of Article VI of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States which reads as follows :

“In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the States and Districts wherein the crime shall have been committed, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.”

Article XIV of the Amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America, which reads, in part, as follows :

“Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”
and

WHEREAS, lynching and mob violence tend to promote a general disregard for law and order and to undermine the very purpose and stability of government, and has a deteriorative effect both upon the people participating therein and the community wherein same occurs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Congress of the United States be and is hereby memorialized to enact a Federal Anti-Lynching law at the present session. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each of the Senators and Representatives of the Congress from the State of Minnesota.

Approved April 13, 1937.