

## Question Mark in Park Rape Case

By Claudia Jones

The recent rape-murder crime in Central Park which shocked New Yorkers is developing a remarkable angle—

The press, which reported the arrest of three young murderers who killed 20-year-old Jack Hylands and raped his escort Yvonne Kenny has displayed a curious coyness over the rape aspects of the case. These men, Edward Koberski, 22, Edward Kankoska, 21, and Henry Suckow, 24, are likewise up for a Queens holdup murder charge which occurred the same day of their rape of Yvonne Kenny.

The N.Y. Daily News' crime reporters, Royal Riley and Art Smith, hinted broadly at peculiar developments in this case when, following speedy police capture of these men, wrote it was possible that they "may never be punished specifically for those (New York Central Park) crimes." (June 21.)

Can it be that the Yvonne Kenny rape case will be dropped for reasons other than the facts yet revealed?

The Daily Worker believes that this may happen, for the following reasons:

Because Yvonne Kenny is a young Negro woman.

This fact alone illustrates why there appears to be a sudden drop of interest in the case by the Hearst - Patterson - McCormick axis and the press as a whole.

Can anyone imagine what the headlines of the Hearst-Patterson-McCormick press would have been like had the situation been reversed; that is: had three Negroes been involved instead of whites?

According to Jimcrow justice, the headlines would have screamed: "Burly dark Negroes raped white womanhood." "Central Park Unsafe; for Negroes Prowl," etc. As a matter of fact, early stories inferred that a "hunt" was on in "dope" centers "in Harlem" for these criminals.

Now that the truth is coming to light, the Mirror, the News and the World-Telegram are uninterested, because Yvonne Kenny, rape victim, is a Negro woman, of West Indian parentage.

Widespread early stories in the same press, following the Central Park crime, hinted broadly that Yvonne Kenny's assailants were "dark-complexioned." It is possible that even then they were seeking for the "usual angle." Instead of a one-day headline, then, the reactionary press would

have whipped up a daily lynch campaign calling for the blood of all Negroes in the city of New York.

Because the Kennys passed the "color line."

That is not all to the Yvonne Kenny case. It appears that the family of this unfortunate girl have "passed" the "color line." The Daily Worker does not know all the reasons involved, nor is this a libel on the family itself. But we do know that thousands of Negro Americans have been forced to do so, to escape the Jimcrow laws of capitalist oppression in order to secure employment, better living conditions, escape from discriminatory housing and educational laws, etc.

These facts are in the census and reams have been written about it. Hence it is an indictment not on people who do so, but on the Jimcrow system, which forces individuals to deny their origin in order to live and exist. It is an indictment primarily on the stupid pro-fascist "theories" of "race supremacy" for indeed, who can tell whether some persons are whites or Negroes?

Because of fraternization of Negroes and whites.

Not the least of all questions involved is that Jack Hylands who bravely defended Yvonne Kenny at the loss of his life, was white. Can it be that police departments and the courts will now hop off this case because—also involved—is the question of fraternization of whites and Negroes on a social level in New York State?

Will the courts prosecute the criminals on the rape charge of a Negro woman?

Undoubtedly the three men indicted first on the hold-up murder charge will be electrocuted. But will the Hearst-Patterson-McCormick press and other respectable capitalist newspapers dare to bring the real issues behind this case to its readers?

The Daily Worker is the only newspaper which dares to print the real facts behind this case—and to basically analyze them. We are interested in seeing justice done to Yvonne Kenny, in exposing the lynch justice against Negro citizens, both in the interests of the Negro people, labor and the nation as a whole.

Will the capitalist newspapers, the police department and the courts do likewise?