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# Editorials

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## Don't Spoil Freedom For Rosa Lee Ingram

The Courier is revealing this week — exclusively — that Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram and her sons, Sammie Lee and Wallace, may be released from their Georgia prison in August, or even sooner.

Therefore, we are asking our readers everywhere to caution everyone to use care and sense in looking at the picture which sees this poor Georgia widow and her sons about to breathe free air again after nine years. Two years ago, they had every possibility of being released, but a demonstration by a group of women rubbed the fur of the Georgia officials the wrong way and the release didn't come.

Let's face it: none of us likes to be forced into doing something. And in the Ingram case, that affair was a "cause celebre" around the whole world. J. B. Hatchett, head of the Georgia Board of Corrections, showed our Trezzvant W. Anderson the file on the Ingram case. Mr. Anderson reports privately that he saw much material from names well known in House Un-American Activities Committee files. One letter was sent to President Truman, two Georgia Senators and Governor Talmadge (not one of whom had any power to act in any way in the case), in which the writer said: "I am not asking, begging or pleading for the release of the Ingrams, but I am demanding (underscored) that they be paroled." That same writer (W. A. McGirt Jr.) invoked the Fifth Amendment many times in a House subcommittee hearing at Charlotte, N. C., in 1956 as our Mr. Anderson listened. He was white.

Too many "fund-raising" promotions were allied to the Ingram case, and how many accountings have been made of the money raised? How much did the Ingrams get? The Georgia Parole Board is one of the few in the United States with absolute authority. Not even the Governor of Georgia can commute a life sentence, only the parole board. The Governor cannot undo what the board does. The board now wants to free the Ingrams. Let's let them do it their way.

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